Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-91-244 *19 December 1991*

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Cuba

Commentator Views End of USSR, Consequences

FL1812152491 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Orlando Contreras commentary: "Our Opinion"]

[Text] What remains of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has only days left of formal existence. Less than two weeks from today, before the 31st of December, what remains institutionally of the USSR will be dismantled, according to an agreement adopted yesterday in Moscow by Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin. Even the flag will be taken down.

According to the Spanish agency EFE, in a dispatch datelined Rome, the president of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, told the Italian daily LA REPUBBLICA, that the Soviet president, Mikhail Gorbachev, has no place in the new community of states that formerly comprised the USSR. He said that Russia will give Gorbachev a pension and proper treatment. End of story.

The causes that led to this disintegration are complex and extensive, impossible to cover in a couple of minutes. I only recall the facts, the final actions that have been the fate of the multi-national state founded by Lenin in 1922 that saved the world from the dominion of Nazi-fascism, that transformed the largest country on the planet, and registered untold scientific and industrial achievements, all in one brief historical period. What is to come is the responsibility of the new leaders of those states and, obviously, of their people.

Several formal questions do arise. Who will occupy the seat of the USSR in the Security Council—that exclusive club of five countries that are more equal than the others because they have the right of veto? Who will assume the international obligations of the USSR in the political, economic, commercial, and cultural fields? Several questions have been clarified. Soviet State Television will come under the control of Russia. But, who will be the owner of Aeroflot? Or the Soviet merchant fleet? Or the state railroad system?

In the meantime, reports from the ex-Soviet Union are not promising. One dispatch from the ASSOCIATED PRESS has the following opening or lead [preceding word in English]: Political chaos, shortage of equipment, and lack of technology threaten to convert the richest petroleum fields in the Soviet Union into the marshes that were here before prospecting began three decades ago. Production, the AP cable says in its second paragraph, has fallen dramatically in Tyumen, the Siberian province that provides more than 60 percent of all national production, which has created a crisis that has forced several cities to reduce or cut their electricity. Sugar, other wire service cables say, is one of the products in shortest supply in the market place.

The USSR has ceased to exist. The immediate and medium-term future is a challenge to the new leaders of the independent states and to their peoples.

The world, without any doubt, has changed in this year that we are now ending.

Commentary on Mexico-Canada-U.S. Trade Accord

PA1812192291 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Dec 91

["Our America" commentary read by Urbino Amaya]

[Text] Not everything seems to be going well with the free trade agreement among Mexico, the United States, and Canada, which should be signed—at least this is what has been said—early in 1992.

Despite some objections by Mexican labor and commercial groups, the decision has already been made and there have been several meetings between representatives from the two governments with most at stake—Mexico and the United States. Thus, the signing of the agreement only seemed a matter of days.

However, to the surprise of many who saw the agreement matters progress smoothly over the past few weeks, there were rumors in the United States that the government could delay the signing of the agreement until after the presidential election. Some U.S. congressmen and several experts believe that at a time when Washington is facing serious economic difficulties, the Democratic opposition could use the agreement—which could result in the loss of jobs in the United States—as an electoral weapon against President George Bush, after he announces his nomination to run for reelection.

The visit last weekend by Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to the United States raised further concerns among the sectors that endorse the agreement. However, after meeting with his colleague George Bush, the Mexican president refused to ratify or endorse the date for the signing of the agreement, which led observers to believe that the signing could be delayed.

As was expected, the U.S. President does not want to make it appear as if—given specific domestic situations—he is hesitating to sign the free trade agreement he promised would have so many advantages.

While President Bush, who is so loquacious, has remained silent, the contradictions and speculation of U.S. Commerce Secretary Carla Hills, chief U.S. negotiator, have circulated over the past few days. Hills, who is also the chief White House official on foreign trade matters, highlighted the importance of the signing of the agreement, which could create the largest common market in the world. Such a market would encompass approximately 400 million people with an annual purchasing power of $600 billion, she said.

Despite the aforementioned impressive statement, on the occasion of Salinas' visit to Washington, the U.S.

commerce secretary told the press in a cautious manner that the United States does not want to condition the quality of the agreement on the need to end the negotiations as soon as possible. She added that according to President George Bush, it is better to sign no agreement than to sign a bad one.

What is the United States hiding behind the current hesitation when so many good things have been said about this agreement with which the United States would begin its Enterprise for the Americas Initiative? It must not be forgotten that even in the United States—although the agreement has some critics—the agreement has advocates. [Words indistinct] are interested in the swift signing of the agreement, because they are convinced that it is necessary to confront the increasing Japanese and European commercial competition.

Some observers believe that a possible delay in the signing of the agreement may be due not only to electoral matters, but also to the U.S. intention to include Mexican oil in the pact. Despite the fact that so far it has not been stated if the signing of the agreement will be postponed, it seems that only time will tell what will happen with the free trade agreement among the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

Contrasting Attitudes on Helping Haitians Viewed

PA1812213891 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1400 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] International organizations have begun to realize Cuba's great effort to take care of a large number of Haitian refugees.

In their dangerous maritime journey to the United States, they suffer accidents and wind up on Cuban coasts.

In Caracas, Frenchman Philippe Lavanchy, the regional representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), praised Cuba's commitment not to pressure Haitians to return to their homeland where they would be subjected to the cruelty of the coupist military forces.

Cuba assumed the humanitarian task of helping more than 1,000 Haitians who have settled in camps in eastern Cuba. However, this country's limited resources complicated the effort.

A recent agreement among the government, the Cuban Red Cross, and the UNHCR intended to assist the Haitians, helps in creating minimum conditions for refugees to stay in this underdeveloped country.

Cuban efforts with international organizations to give just treatment to Haitians—who are also fleeing from poverty in their country—contrasts with the U.S. attitude toward more than 8,000 who have left their land hurriedly since the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on 30 September.

U.S. vessels pick up Haitians out at sea and, without any explanation, take them to the Guantanamo Naval Base, which Washington illegally occupies in the southeastern part of Cuba. After refusing to give them refuge in the United States, as can be expected from a rich nation, the U.S. Government manipulated the refugees and even forced the return of 538 of them to Port-au-Prince.

These things happen even though the U.S. Government knows that Haitians seek that country as the final destination where they hope to work and send money to their relatives in the Caribbean.

In addition to using the usurped Cuban territory for new actions, the White House remains indifferent to epidemics and other problems that have appeared because of the motley crowd gathering at the base.

The negative consequences of this treatment mainly affect Haitians, but also Cubans, because refuse from the camps is being dumped in Guantanamo Bay.

The Cuban Government and people repudiate the U.S. presence in Guantanamo, but they also reject the unauthorized use of their land for tortuous objectives against others.

Commentary on Arrival of Colombian Consul General

PA1912003091 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1400 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] The imminent arrival in Havana of Gustavo Orozco, the Colombian consul general in Cuba, will constitute the last practical step in the normalization of consular relations between the two countries, which were formally restored by Presidents Fidel Castro and Cesar Gaviria during the Iberian-American summit held last July.

On that occasion the two presidents said the objectives were to promote economic relations, especially trade, as well as cultural, tourist, and judicial cooperation in the struggle against drug trafficking.

When the document that normalized the financial and trade relations was signed in Santa Fe de Bogota last November, new (?areas) to be exploited emerged in the field of trade. Among them, we can mention cooperation in the field of health. This will not be limited to the purchase of vaccinations and other medicines by Colombia, but will include technical assistance, scientific exchanges, and possibly the transfer of technology.

The Colombian consul general, who will arrive in Havana in the next few days, said in Santa Fe de Bogota that Colombian businessmen are willing to negotiate

with the island. He noted that he traveled to the Caribbean nation in November with 25 businessmen, who signed agreements with Cuba for some $2 million.

Asked about the possibility of refining petroleum in Cuba, Gustavo Orozco told the media that the prospect has been reviewed. He also talked about the possibility that Colombian businessmen could participate in the operation of large Cuban factories, which are currently paralyzed because of the adverse economic situation in the island.

The expected increase in trade between Cuba and Colombia will be based on an increase in Cuban exports, the earnings of which will in part be allocated to purchase Colombian goods and to pay back financial debts with this country.

Cuban Consul Omar Morales has already arrived in the South American nation. His mission is to note Cuba's willingness to strengthen relations with Colombia as part of the Latin American integration process.

In the last 30 years, bilateral diplomatic relations were broken twice by two different Colombian governments. Both sides said, however, that the resumption of ties could not be postponed after an investigation process in which advantageous trade agreements were signed.

Risquet Announces Meeting on 1962 Missile Crisis

PA1812155191 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1400 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Representatives of Cuba, the United States, and the Soviet Union will participate in the third tripartite meeting on the 1962 October Crisis to be held in Havana from 9 to 12 January, Jorge Risquet Valdes, who will head the Cuban delegation, has reported.

Risquet Valdes, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, said that just as in the two earlier meetings, in Moscow and Antigua, experts of the three countries will analyze in Havana the causes and lessons learned from that event which placed the world on the verge of a nuclear war.

The then U.S. secretary of defense, former Secretary of State Dean Rusk, and Soviet personalities will participate in the Havana meeting.

The 1962 October crisis occurred when the U.S. Government threatened to attack Cuba, where Soviet nuclear weapons had been installed to guarantee the island's defense.

Isle of Youth Residents Mobilized in Citrus Plan

FL1812234791 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2054 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] In the past two months, more than 13,500 residents of the Isle of Youth have helped in weeding the citrus plantations after the workers movement and the Union of Young Communists on the Isle of Youth issued an urgent call. These weekend mobilizations reported that some 300,000 grapefruit plants were weeded by hand, which is equivalent to 140 caballerias. In order to use the limited fuel more efficiently, a mechanized brigade has focused its efforts on that project. The brigade has already cleaned 400 caballerias.

The weeding process of the Isle of Youth citrus plan includes more than 700 caballerias. Due to the lack of herbicides and fuel, it is necessary to seek solutions through the massive participation of worker groups.

Haiti

Decree Announces Cabinet Reshuffle 16 Dec

FL1812214291 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1800 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Decree signed by Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat, approved by Provisional President Joseph Nerette, issued by the Directorate of Information on 17 December]

[Text] On 16 December, by order of the provisional government of the Republic, the following appointments have been made: Jean-Robert Simonise, minister of foreign affairs and worship; Marcel Bonny, minister of planning, external cooperation, and state service; and Maurice Lazare, minister of commerce and industry.

The text of this order signed by Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat and approved by Provisional President Joseph Nerette explains that this reorganization of the ministerial cabinet has been made in accordance with the needs of the crisis.

In addition, Louis Antoine Auguste has been appointed secretary general of the Council of Ministers.

New Commerce Minister Maurice Lazare Interviewed

FL1812224891 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1800 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Interview with Commerce Minister Maurice Lazare by correspondent Jean-Marie Ferari on 17 December; place not given—correspondent in Creole]

[Text] Last night, the prime minister of the provisional government, Jean-Jacques Honorat installed the new commerce minister, Maurice Lazare. He replaces Francois Bouzi. Will there be a new direction at this ministry? At the conclusion of the installation ceremony, Jean-Marie Ferari interviewed the incumbent of the Ministry of Commerce.

[Begin recording] [Ferari] According to an order undertaken by Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat on 17 December, the ministerial cabinet has been reshuffled. An hour after this order was made public, the prime minister personally installed the new minister of commerce, Maurice Lazare replacing lawyer Lyonel [first

name as heard] Bouzi. On that occasion, the prime minister did not want to make any comment.

[Honorat] No comment.

[Ferari] But after the installation ceremony, we interviewed the new commerce minister. Will there be a new policy at the Ministry of Commerce?

[Lazare] I do not really want to say there will be a new policy because we were there before, we [words indistinct]. We are going to try to [word indistinct], to carry on with my predecessor's work, and to bring about improvements as much as possible.

[Ferari] We remind you that Commerce Minister Maurice Lazare was previously secretary of state at the same ministry. [end recording]

Senate Sets Stage for Legal Action on Embargo

FL1812201591 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1200 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Report by Jean-Marie Ferari; italicized passage in Creole—recorded]

[Text] The Senate voted on an important resolution on the embargo yesterday afternoon. After they had analyzed the ill effects of that measure on the country, the upper chamber unanimously approved a five-point resolution during a regular session on 17 December. One of the most important points of this resolution is the decision to establish a special committee to prepare the documentation for legal action before the Hague International Court of Justice, aimed at obtaining redress for the damages caused by the embargo. Jean-Marie Ferari was at the chamber. Here is his report.

[Begin recording] [Ferari] *The Senate made a decision relative to the current conjuncture. This decision is an important resolution on the embargo, voted into effect during the Senate's 17 December session. It is a five-point resolution, the most important point of which is the Senate's decision to establish a committee with the responsibility of setting up a case for presentation to the Hague International Justice Court for redress of the damages caused by the embargo on Haiti. Senator Mondestin, one of the framers of this resolution, gives us further details.*

[Mondestin] *It is therefore a resolution intended to ask the executive to...[changes thought] that requires first the establishment of a committee to study the destructive effects of the embargo on Haiti's national life and—with various national and international organizations with first-hand experience of the effects of the embargo...[changes thought] not exactly close to the embargo, but concerned with the direct effects of the embargo, such as the Ministries of Health, Social Affairs, Education, and so forth.*

Another point in this resolution is a call to the Central Bank of the Republic of Haiti to initiate negotiations and discussions with other banking sectors in order to establish a kind of moratorium so the debtors of the banks do not fall into bankruptcy or extreme delinquency.

[Ferari] *This unanimous resolution is the second the Senate has voted on since 28 November. The first resolution was to ask the OAS and the international community to acknowledge the provisional government under the National Assembly decree, dated 8 October, in compliance with Article 149 of the Constitution. In its first resolution, the Senate also asked the OAS and the international community to immediately and unconditionally lift the embargo against Haiti. What is the difference between these two resolutions? Let us listen to Senator Mondestin.*

[Mondestin] *In contrast to the previous resolution, this one sets up a five-member committee to determine how to establish a case to allow the executive a chance to consider—if feasible—legal action for the losses that the embargo has caused to the Haitian people.*

[Ferari] *Legal action against whom?*

[Mondestin] *Against those who imposed the embargo.*

[Ferari] *The OAS?*

[Mondestin] *The OAS and the member countries of the OAS.*

[Ferari] *May we recall that there is juridicial precedent relating to a similar situation that occurred in America, especially the embargo that was imposed on Nicaragua and the mining of the Managua Harbor by the United States of America. The Managua government lodged complaints before the Hague International Court. The result was that Nicaragua got redress.*[end recording]

'Wait and See' Stance Adopted Toward Violence

FL1812130491 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Violence in Haiti has continued for the past two days. Heavy Army gunfire was heard in Port-au-Prince, and broadcasts on a clandestine radio station called for the deaths of Aristide supporters. Deputy Astrel Charles, a socialist, was shot and killed in Pignon in northern Haiti on Sunday by a rural official. A newspaper reported that he was shot after an argument when the section chief asked him to halt a meeting with his constituents. Other deputies have been threatened and attacked by coup supporters.

Parliamentarians in Haiti remain divided over the choice of a new interim prime minister. The recently agreed upon plan from the Organization of American States calls for the naming of a new interim prime minister to replace the military-backed prime minister, Jean-Jacques Honorat, as the next step in a return to democracy. One parliamentary group favors a man backed by ousted President Aristide, while others favor

interim anti-Aristide candidate or the calling of early elections to replace the deposed president.

The National Front for Change and Democracy, which supported Mr. Aristide in elections on December 16, 1990, backs Victor Benoit for the job. He is the secretary general of the National Congress of Democratic Forces, a social democratic party. Other members favor Marc Bazin, president of the Movement for the Installation of Democracy in Haiti. He is a strong critic of President Aristide who is now in exile in Venezuela. The military is adopting a wait-and-see position, but many say the violence of recent days is an attempt to intimidate Aristide supporters. The OAS estimates the military has killed about 1,500 Haitians since the coup.

Costa Rica

Calderon Pleased With Presidential Summit

PA1812231691 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] On the afternoon of 17 December President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier returned from Honduras, where he attended the Central American presidential summit. Calderon said he is pleased with the results of the summit and the progress made in the social sphere. He said the governments renewed pledges to improve the region's standard of living.

At the meeting in Honduras President Calderon set forth a proposal to reduce the region's infant mortality rate and improve its health, housing, and education services. He described the presence of international organizations at the Honduras summit as a positive sign that the Central American region will receive aid. Calderon added that the presence of Taiwan and the formation of a joint Sino-Central American commission that is scheduled to meet yearly, alternating between Taipei and a Central American country, will facilitate Taiwanese aid to Central America.

In the economic sphere, Calderon said that next week Economy and Industry Minister Gonzalo Fajardo will travel to Guatemala to attend a meeting at which arrangements will be made to reduce regional tariffs by the first quarter of 1992.

President Calderon returned on 16 December because he accepted an invitation from his Honduran colleague Rafael Leonardo Callejas to remain on Bahia de Honduras island. The purpose of this invitation, which was extended to all the presidents who attended the Tegucigalpa summit, was to discuss a variety of bilateral and regional issues.

Calderon said that in the end he alone remained in Honduras, which enabled him and his Honduran colleague to exchange points of view regarding future regional actions on a more personal level.

El Salvador

FMLN Personnel To Take Police Training Abroad

PA1812215091 Paris AFP in Spanish 2038 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Dec (AFP)—Rebel sources announced on 15 December that as of January 1992, the Salvadoran guerrilla forces will begin sending fighters to Sweden, Spain, Uruguay, and Colombia for police training, and upon their return they will join the new civilian police that will result from the peace negotiations with the government.

The announcement was made by Commander Adonai of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), who added that he will be one of approximately 10,000 rebels who will receive police training.

Adonai, a 23-year-old commander who participated in the 14 December demonstration for peace in El Salvador, said that he was very optimistic about his trip to Sweden for a seven-month training program.

He noted that it was decided in the Salvadoran Government negotiations with the FMLN under the mediation of the United Nations to dissolve the current security corps and form a new National Civilian Police (PNC).

Adonai, a strong olive-skinned man from Arcatao, Chalatenango, said that he joined the FMLN at the age of 14 when he saw his parents killed in the so-called Sumpul Massacre attributed to the Army.

"My only surviving brother was killed fighting against the Army in Guazapa," Adonai disclosed. Because he belongs to the FMLN urban commando groups in San Salvador, Adonai does not disclose his true name.

After fighting on various war fronts for nine years and living in San Salvador for three months, the FMLN fighter seemed confident that the negotiations that will begin 16 December in New York will culminate with the signing of a final cease-fire.

After the peace document is signed, "I will leave for Sweden, where I will receive academic training," the rebel commander said, after explaining that another group will receive military training.

Adonai believes his future lies with the PNC, where he "will loyally serve the people" and "will have a family and go to school," since he completed only the third grade because of the war.

END Issues Statement on War Tax Collection

PA1912034791 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 18 Dec 91

["Declaration" on war taxes, issued by the National Army for Democracy, END, General Staff]

[Text] Regarding the collection of war taxes, we declare:

1. We have ascertained that government Armed Forces personnel and criminals posing as members of our Army have extorted farm owners.

2. Our war tax collection procedure is on a direct, person-to-person basis. We do not collect the war tax indiscreetly, as the government's Armed Forces personnel and criminals have been doing.

3. It is not our policy to threaten the lives of farm owners who refuse to pay the war tax; instead, we sabotage their property. Our war tax collection is intended to finance the struggle for the democratization of the country and is not for personal gain, as is the case with the criminals and government Armed Forces personnel.

[signed] END General Staff
[dated] 16 December 1991

END Criticizes Violation of Unilateral Truce

PA1912044391 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Communique issued by the National Army for Democracy, END, 3d Military Region in Morazan Department on 17 December]

[Text] Operation "Our territories and truce must be respected; long live the martyrs of El Mozote."

In response to the constant aerial incursions by the Armed Forces during the unilateral truce, the National Army for Democracy's [END] 3d Military Region carried out a [word indistinct] military operation to reject the bombings and military incursions into our regions, particularly against the fascist attacks leveled against political leaders and our delegates to the negotiations.

We hereby reaffirm our total support for the demands of land for the peasants, END participation in the new Civil National Police, political opportunities for society, and the reduction and purging of the Armed Forces. All of these things were agreed on in the New York Agreements, but the government and high command are refusing to fulfill them. Their unpatriotic attitude is prolonging the war in El Salvador.

We are willing to maintain the unilateral truce, but we are also totally convinced that we must defend the interests of the people against the ultra-rightwing minority. Within this framework, we have carried out actions to defend the truce and the negotiations, as follows:

Appearances on the Pan-American and Military Route highways; propaganda activity in San Miguel neighborhoods; clashes on the Urbina bridge; propaganda activity in (Oloaiquin); clashes in (El Portillo del Soldado) with troops from Military Detachment No. 4; propaganda on the outskirts of Corinto and (Calle Sociedad Corinto); propaganda activity between Chapeltique and Ciudad Barrios; and clashes on (Cerro Arena).

Through mobilization and participation, we will drive the ultra-rightwing to their graves. The END will move toward democracy without squads or repressive corps.

[signed] END 3d Military Region Command
[issued] Morazan, 17 December 1991

Report on Clashes Between Armed Forces, Rebels

PA1712152191

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on fighting between the Salvadoran Armed Forces and the guerrillas of the National Army for Democracy, END, armed branch of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, from 10 to 15 December.

(Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 11 December reports that on 10 December, in San Gerardo and Los Laureles, San Miguel Department, two companies of the Ponce Battalion sustained 16 casualties—five dead and 11 wounded—in a bettle with END forces.

The report adds that on 10 December, in Yamabal Municipality, Army troops from Morazan Department clashed with END units and sustained two casualties.

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 12 December reports that on 11 December, in La Union Department, END units clashed with Fonseca Battalion forces moving on Cerro Pelon, an area under FMLN control. The END has confirmed that it wounded two enemy soldiers. Also on 11 December, the report says, Arce Battalion forces advanced on the town of San Fernando and clashed with END units; the Army troops sustained two casualties. In the Jocaitique area, the Arce Battalion forces sustained two more casualties.

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 13 December reports that on 12 December, END units clashed with a company of the Arce Battalion in San Fernando. The enemy sustained one casualty, the announcer reports.

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 16 December reports that on 15 December, Bracamonte Battalion troops sustained two casualties when they tried to enter zones under FMLN control in the Guazapa Hill area.

The announcer reports later that END forces are keeping an eye on Army paratroopers who arrived in the Tenancingo area as well as two squadrons of paratroopers who on 13 December entered Suchitoto Municipality, Cuscatlan Department, in case they try to enter territory under FMLN control. The announcer says that on 13 December, Military Detachment No. 1 forces entered a Chalatenango municipality, clashed with END forces, and sustained four casualties.

Guatemala

End of Year Cabinet Resignation Called Normal

PA1812173491 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 17 Dec 91 p 3

[Text] Acting President Gustavo Adolfo Espina Salguero explained on 16 December that "the resignation that the entire cabinet presented to the president is the customary practice at the end of the year."

Espina Salguero told a news conference that when high-ranking government officials resign, they present a

report on their work for the past 12 months and their plans for the following year.

He stated that for the time being, no changes in the government ministers and officials are expected. It is almost certain that President Serrano Elias will be confirming the officials.

Defense Minister on Peace Efforts, Guerrillas

PA1812201591 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Text] Army intelligence services have not detected an intensification of guerrilla activities for the upcoming weeks, as President Jorge Serrano had reportedly predicted in statements attributed to him in various media.

Defense Minister General Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa, who was sworn in 10 days ago, said that he believes that President Serrano's statements during a recent meeting with military commanders were misinterpreted.

[Begin recording] [Garcia] The guerrillas usually intensify certain kinds of actions that are not necessarily military ones. You noticed that they have attacked defenseless civilian towns, including (Safatita), Santa Elena Barillas, Pueblo Nuevo Vinas, where not even a detachment is present, in an indiscriminate, irrational, and irresponsible manner. There are children, elderly people, and people who want to live in peace, who have been attacked with impunity.

On 16 December they committed a crime in Los Cimientos, a town where there is a military detachment providing security. They fired projectiles that fell on a house, killing a girl, and reportedly causing the amputation of a woman's leg. We tried to send an aircraft to help these people, but bad weather prevented us from doing so. How can these kind of actions be described?

[Reporter] As military actions against the Army?

[Garcia] They have also stopped vehicles on highways and assaulted people. This does not coincide with their intentions of attaining peace, which we are trying to promote through dialogue and negotiation.

[Reporter] Gen. Garcia, what is your opinion on the comments by the former defense minister [words indistinct]?

[Garcia] No, that is totally false. In 1960, the government was criticized for failing to meet social needs because of a number of circumstances: Salaries were not paid on time and there was dissatisfaction among the officers—there should have been 54 of them [words indistinct]—and among other officers who were still in military school and others who had been [words indistinct].

Certain politicians tried to create an atmosphere of unconformity and division within our armed institution. Other circumstances led to an armed movement on 13 November [words indistinct]. The armed institution did not support it.

Rebel groups led by [words indistinct] emerged from this. The current situation is not similar to the one I just described. President Serrano's administration supports the armed institution.

[Reporter] Do you believe the Army is strongly united?

[Garcia] I say that from the heart. I would not be sitting here if that were not true. Our conscience has been our professionalism because we have not reached this position through pacts, political favoritism, or friendship. We reached this position based on merit; because we have a profound professional inclination.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Garcia] We fully support the total peace proposal or initiative that the president presented at the beginning of these talks. We, as an armed institution, definitely support this process. As Guatemalans, we aspire to attain peace. If we felt the love of Christ within ourselves, we would be finding ways to become united and identify with each other. The forces that oppose peace, democracy, and liberty are creating chaos and thwarting the genuine aspirations of Guatemalans.

The Guatemalan Army—I want you to understand this—is the institution tasked with defending Guatemala's heritage and conscience. It promotes security, not insecurity. We are obliged to do so in this context.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Garcia] I could mention four key points. They call for the elimination of voluntary civil defense committees; humanitarian recognition of this aspect of the armed confrontation; immediate urgency be given to this recognition; and the other one is...

[Reporter, interrupting] [Question indistinct]?

[Garcia] No, it deals with the Truth and Justice Commission. I would say that those are not among the issues initially agreed upon. You noticed it was said that any agreement reached would be a partial one and that a final agreement would definitely be sought to end the internal armed confrontation.

These are the issues that were discussed. This does not mean that conditions are being imposed on the president of the Republic in the implementation of government social and economic policies. This situation has prompted the parties to work in that direction.

I would say that the reconciliation commission has arduously worked to overcome the apparent stalemate that you referred to. The firm determination is still present. I want to make it clear that a government commission of high-ranking officers is involved in the

talks with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, not the Army. [end recording]

Nicaragua

Lacayo Announces Paris Club Debt Reduction

PA1912041191 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Engineer Antonio Lacayo stressed that the reduction of the Nicaraguan debt by the Paris Club and giving exceptional treatment to Nicaragua had not happened in the 35 years since the so-called Toronto Terms.

[Begin Lacayo recording, broadcast in progress] ...without doubt is an exceptional recognition of solid support by the international community to the government headed by President Violeta Chamorro. It clears the way for all developing countries to obtain better levels of relief in renegotiating their foreign debt. [end recording]

Engineer Lacayo said that these agreements exceed expectations; they break a record, and establish new terms.

[Begin Lacayo recording] Nicaragua had a total of approximately $1.09 billion in debt with the 16 Paris Club member-countries, of which the United States had already pardoned $260 million; thus, we went to Paris to renegotiate $830 million. Our country was left with the obligation of one-fourth of that—approximately $207 million, instead of $830 million. [end recording]

The successful Paris Club negotiations fulfill one of the socioeconomic mandates of the concerted effort, Minister Lacayo said.

[Begin Lacayo recording] The government thus fulfills one more of the obligations it had committed itself to in the socioeconomic concerted agreements, when we promised to obtain this completely extraordinary, preferential, and exceptional concession for Nicaragua. [end recording]

Lacayo stressed that this concession commits every Nicaraguan to insuring that the country moves ahead.

He stated that for the 17 December meeting with the Cardinal's Verification Commission, Miguel Obando y Bravo was to travel to northern Nicaragua to talk to El Indomable [Jose Angel Moran Flores] in order to stop his activities that are harming coffee production.

Government Announces Energy Saving Measure

PA1912125391 Paris AFP in Spanish 0149 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Managua 17 Dec (AFP)—Energy Minister Emilio Rappaccioli announced on 17 December that the Nicaraguan Government will be starting the new year by setting its clocks ahead one hour to save energy.

According to Minister Rappaccioli, who made the announcement during a press conference, the measure is intended to prevent a severe energy crisis. Nicaragua is currently forced to buy electricity from Costa Rica, which represents monthly payments of $150,000.

Nicaragua uses approximately 220 megawatts per day, although the trend has been increasing recently, mostly due to an increase in commercial activity and greater use of home appliances. [passage omitted]

* Cotton Growers Seek Additional Loans

92P40084A

[Editorial Report] Managua BARRICADA in Spanish of 20 November 1991 on page 7 reports that Leon cotton growers have asked their union to seek loans which will enable them to combat the boll weevil and measuring worm which are infecting 30 percent of the Nicaraguan cotton crop. According to Jose Abraham Hernandez Mendiola, executive secretary of the Leon Association of Cotton Growers (ADAL), the loans will be used for additional insecticide applications. Union members are also seeking bank payments to compensate growers affected by the devaluation last March which set the exchange rate for the cordoba at five to the dollar. The article explains that although cotton growers warned the government of the insect infestations in September, their demands are more urgent now because the world price for cotton is dropping.

Panama

Peaceful Protest Held in Front of U.S. Embassy

PA1812130491 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Dec 91 p 32A

[Article by Elio A. Rujano M.]

[Text] More than 20 Panamanians and U.S. citizens protested against the George Bush administration in front of the U.S. Embassy on 17 December, a few days before the second anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Panama.

Members of the Panamanian Nationalist Democratic Campaign [Jornada Nacionalista Democratica] and the U.S. group Christian Action for Peace and the Movement for Reconciliation, joined together to condemn the military action that ousted the Manuel Antonio Noriega regime on 20 December 1989.

While the Panamanians chanted anti-U.S. slogans, the U.S. citizens accompanying them observed the demonstration. At the same time, a group of Buddhist monks prayed near the Park of Friendship.

Public Force units were sent to the area to divert traffic. No incidents were reported.

A U.S. citizen, who asked to remain unidentified, said: "We are always very sad to see how our country is

perceived, and we are here to learn, we are here to share, and we are here to demand that the United States leave Panama."

The protest began at 1730 and ended 30 minutes later with the singing of the national anthem. The demonstrators withdrew peacefully.

Article Cites Endara's Lack of Support

PA1812151991 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Dec 91 p 42a

[Article by Ramiro Guerra M.: "Are Endara's Days Numbered?"]

[Text] Over the past few weeks, there have been persistent reports on a number of clashes that have taken place in the vicinity of the Palace of the Herons. All these reports have been denied by the president and the Institutional Protection Service (SPI).

It is my opinion that, regardless of whether these events or the repeated coup d'etat rumors are true or not, they are more than just simple events without any scope or significance. These events must have some type of goal or purpose. I would call them an aspect of psychological warfare and would say that one of the goals is to get public opinion accustomed to the possibility of a political event of this type taking place so people will not assign to the event the importance it merits when it really does happens. It could also be a pressure mechanism, orchestrated by powerful and influential groups, to get the government to favor their political-economic interests.

Now, who fabricates these rumors? A way to find out is to ask ourselves: When and under what circumstances do the aforementioned rumors arise and when do they enter the political sphere?

There is no doubt that Guillermo Endara's government suffers an enormous amount of social isolation. It has virtually no significant base of social support. A few weeks ago, political scientists conceded the government's precarious social situation. However, they also said that the Endara Government would not fall because it had a roof and a floor that held it in power—the United States.

However, everything seems to indicate that the Magluta [alleged drug trafficker] affair could be undermining the foreign support enjoyed by the executive branch. In addition, I would say that the president has not turned out to be the competent and efficient man required to implement the programs and strategies of the international financial institutions, and for the United States, this is very important. It is not by chance that the Christian Democratic Party, from its position of pseudo opposition, is resolving matters in favor of the interests of the sources of financial capital. In this sense, we have noted that the problem of alleged sabotage by legislators who did not attend the Legislative Assembly sessions so that there would not be a quorum was resolved when U.S. Ambassador Hinton visited Ricardo Arias Calderon [President of the Christian Democratic Party]. What was negotiated? We will have to wait and see.

As can be observed, the social situation is very complicated. I have the feeling that very important events are in the making. The situation is delicate and chaotic, and dangerous for democracy because it disbands and splinters the democratic and the grass roots sectors. We will see when it emerges.

Possible Plot Against Attorney General Viewed

PA1512042391 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0347 GMT 15 Dec 91

[Text] Panama City, 14 Dec (DPA)—Panamanian authorities said on 14 December that the two terrorist actions that occurred this weekend near the home of Attorney General Rogelio Cruz could be a plan to assassinate the high-ranking justice official.

One bomb was thrown on 13 December near a bank, and a second was thrown on 14 December in the parking lot of an ice-cream parlor, 300 and 200 meters, respectively, from Attorney General Cruz' home.

According to the Judicial Technical Police, the two explosive devices were fragmentation grenades.

Similar terrorist actions took place a few days ago in Panama City; one against the Harinas de Panama flour mill and the other against the National Lottery building.

So far no group has claimed credit for these attacks, although some observers believe this might be a form of protest as the second anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Panama approaches on 20 December.

Preparations To Mark 20 Dec Invasion

PA1812155291 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Report by Moravia Ochoa, Radio Havana Cuba correspondent in Panama]

[Text] Panama is preparing to receive the new year, marked forever by the brutal invasion of 20 December 1989, when U.S. troops, using the most modern devices of war, unleashed a terrible massacre that left behind thousands of dead among civilians and military, hundreds of wounded or missing, and prisoners of war. Thousands were left homeless and lost their belongings, as well as their relatives, under the 1,000-pound bombs used by the yankee troops against this small nation.

The panic sowed among the community is such that there are still many people who have not publicly denounced that they have lost a relative or that they were wounded. These people fear persecution for having a patriot among their relatives. They even fear losing their jobs if it is learned that they have a relative who was a victim of the invasion. These people fear that they will

be singled out and marked for having a battalion member—as they are now known—among their relatives.

Nevertheless, two years after having lived these horrible incidents here in Panama in December 1989, more and more people are daring to speak out. Hundreds of Torrijos' followers and other countrymen are in the so-called Modelo Jail, El Renacer, and the Coiba Penal Island. According to the young wife of one of these Panamanian prisoners of war, they continue to have high morale. These men were jailed during what can be called a loathsome act, for which the perpetrators should be filled with shame.

Two years after the invasion, the Panamanian people demand freedom for their countrymen, among whom we can point out Benjamin Colamarco, our comrade Professor Rigoberto Paredes, and Jaime Simmons. Some of these prisoners of war remain jailed on charges of alleged corruption solely for having been at the head of a government institution during the year of the national liberation process led by General Torrijos.

The people are ready to participate in a great demonstration on 20 December, two years after the invasion. They have asked that the bodies of those who fell during the invasion be exhumed and that all prisoners of war be immediately released. In addition, the people have requested the closing of the yankee military bases and fulfillment of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

The Panamanian people believe that Panama is occupied by invading troops, who are spread throughout the country. This situation has prompted several protests from the population.

Minister Denies Country Becoming 'Militarized'

PA1812121491 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Dec 91 p 44a

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] Juan Chevalier, government and justice minister, admitted ordering the purchase of 10 9mm Parabellum Uru II submachine guns for the National Police, but warned "that it is a normal purchase and does not mean that the country is being militarized."

According to a note published on 15 December in the local press, the minister ordered the purchase from Industria y Comercio de Maquinas Bilbao, S.A., with main offices in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The note, signed by Chevalier, requests that the weapons and their accessories be shipped to Panama "with their respective luxury wooden cases."

The Government Ministry says it will pay necessary transportation costs and requests Francisco Alava Ugarte, manager of the Brazilian company, to "send the name of the Sao Paulo bank by facsimile so payment for the equipment can be transferred."

Even though the minister did not mention the weapons' cost, he said that the requisition "is normal, and I do not believe that the country is being militarized by the purchase of 10 machine guns," he added.

"How much longer are we going to continue being ridiculous in this country? The slightest things become a scandal here.... What is going on?" exclaimed the government and justice minister.

President Guillermo Endara, police authorities, and Chevalier have reiterated that Panama has a high crime rate and that most thugs are better armed than policemen, who have .38 caliber revolvers, shotguns, and a few T-67 and M-16 assault rifles to face criminals with Uzi submachine guns, AK-47 assault rifles with bullets that penetrate bullet-proof vests, and even RPG grenade launchers.

According to Chevalier, "the purchase is nothing to be afraid of. The fact that the weapons have silencers does not mean the country is militarizing. We are not going to have a silent revolution," the minister said.

Arias Calderon on Assuming Control of Canal

PA1712162691 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 17 Dec 91 p 12A

[Text] Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president of the Republic and president of the Christian Democratic Party, recently delivered a speech to students of the University of Panama's Law School on perfecting the national state and the Panama Canal.

In his speech, Arias Calderon said it is necessary to strengthen the national state and build a democratic republic after the historical traumas the Panamanian people have suffered.

Arias Calderon said that assuming total control of the Panama Canal operation is one of the most important challenges the country will face in the near future. He said he disagrees with the privatization of the canal and noted that a high percentage of canal employees are Panamanian.

He stressed the importance of preserving the canal's hydrographic basin. He also expressed his hope that the executive branch will follow the recommendations made by the Special Commission appointed by the president of the Republic to seek consensus solutions on the administration of the canal and its resources.

Arias Calderon delivered his speech on 12 December at the closure of a seminar entitled "The Panama Canal: A Permanent Polemic," held on 10, 11, and 12 December.

Other participants in the seminar were Diogenes de la Rosa, Gilberto Guardia, Fernando Manfredo, Alonso Fernandez, Carlos Lucas Lopez, and Juan Materno Vasquez.

Ad Hoc Commission Plan for Canal Administration

PA1812170091 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 15 Dec 91 p 3C

[Reprinted from Panama Trade News Magazine]

[Text] The ad hoc commission appointed to formulate urgent recommendations related to the future administration of the Panama Canal and the reverted areas presented a report to the president that covers the following points:

Two efficient, compatible, and independent institutions should be established. One of these institutions will assume as soon possible, the planning, promotion, and management related to development plans for the interoceanic region. The other institution will be responsible, in a very unpretentious and trustworthy manner, for the management of the canal on the transfer date. During the years that remain until the treaty expires, this institution will serve as a transition body between the U.S. federal administration of the Panama Canal Commission and the future Panamanian administration.

The Interoceanic Region Authority will have the following duties: 1) Organization and direction, objectives, supervision, and finances of the Interoceanic Region Authority; 2) Use and disposition of the reverted properties; 3) Adoption and execution of the General Usage Plan, and conservation and development of the Canal area; 4) Coordination between the Interoceanic Region Authority and other state institutions also with responsibilities over reverted properties (through a single channel).

The organization that eventually oversees the canal must be completely autonomous and independent to manage the canal for the exclusive benefit of the Panamanian state. The basic guidelines that are to be established for its management are as follows: Complete independence from national political fluctuations, a labor policy based on merit, and a policy for setting toll rates that must be consistent with the objective of reconciling the development of the interoceanic region with the functioning of the canal. In addition, this organization must guarantee the dual objective of preventing a decrease in the revenues to be received by the state, and at the same time ensuring that there will always be enough reserves to undertake new investments and to maintain the present installations under optimum working conditions. It is suggested that the internal structure of the aforementioned organization should be similar to that of the current Panama Canal Commission, inasmuch as it may be consistent with Panamanian judicial bylaws. The objective of this is to ease the transition from a body controlled mainly by the United States of America to a completely Panamanian institution.

The Administration Organization must include a board of directors, an administrator and a general deputy administrator, and possibly one or two consultative boards. The board of directors will designate the administrator with an affirmative vote of no less that two-thirds of the nine board members. The person selected would be appointed by the president and ratified by the National Assembly. The election of the board of directors would be arranged in such a manner as to prevent any government, during its mandate, from appointing the majority of aforementioned board members. Likewise, board members would be selected based on education, ability, integrity, and experience.

The ad hoc commission has also recommended the appointment of a Presidential Commission for the Creation of the Interoceanic Region Authority and the Canal Administration Organization. This commission will be charged with preparing the draft bill related to formulating the necessary recommendations on reforms that are to take place during the coming years within the administrative framework of the current Panama Canal Commission.

It was noted that the basic problem in complying with the objectives of Law 1 of 1991 "by which urgent measures are adopted regarding the reverted goods" has been the lack of an executive branch of the Consultative Council. Therefore, it was recommended that while the Organic Law is being drafted, debated, and approved, an executive directorate of the Canal Area Advisory Council under the president should assume the duties, personnel, and furniture of the Canal Area Planning and Development Office (OPDAC) of the Ministry of Finance and Treasury.

The suggested timetable for the adoption of the proposed measures is the following: 1) October 1991: creating the Presidential Commission and appointing the Executive Director; and 2) Cabinet Decree regulating Law 1 of 1991; 2) [numbering as published] April 1992: Formal proposal of the Interoceanic Region Authority Organic Law; and 3) September 1992: formal proposal to the Legislative Assembly of the Draft Bill on Constitutional Amendments for the creation of the Canal Administration Organization and proposal by the Executive Branch of the draft bill on the Organic Law.

Political Parties Lose Many Followers

PA1812212691 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Dec 91 p2A

[Report by Irene Hernandez G.]

[Text] To date, more than 250,000 Panamanians have resigned from the currently politically active parties: (Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD; Christian Democratic Party, PDC; Authentic Liberal Party, PLA; Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, MOLIRENA; and Arnulfist Party, PA). This figure includes 108,000 Panamanians who belonged to the PRD, the largest supporter of the previous regime's policies.

The presidents of these political groups, however, have played down the importance of the mass resignations.

The preceding figures were taken from a "confidential" document to which this newspaper had access. The document primarily outlines the resignation of more than 108,000 PRD followers.

This figure coincides with statements by Electoral Tribunal President Guillermo Marquez, who said that as a result of the U.S. invasion of 20 December 1989, a large group of National Liberation Coalition [COLINA] followers went to the Electoral Tribunal to resign from the coalition's parties.

Marquez stated that there have been resignations from opposition parties that are now in office (Democratic Opposition Alliance, ADO), but he said that these were not massive resignations like those from parties related to the previous military regime.

For Marquez, there are three basic reasons for a large number of Panamanians to leave certain political parties: 1. changing from one party to another in search of better opportunities; 2. the desire to withdraw from a party that is no longer credible; and 3. the decision to resign because one works for a certain government institution.

Regarding the last of these reasons, the Electoral Tribunal has asked the Presidency, the Attorney General's Office, the Supreme Court of Justice, the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ], the National Police, and the Government and Justice Ministry for a list of their officials, since these persons cannot belong to any political party.

Additionally, Marquez said that the Electoral Tribunal has determined that those people who belonged to one political party and subsequently changed to another should be excluded from the first party's list, even if the person has not presented his resignation.

The PLA is another party that has suffered tremendous losses. It has lost 20,875 members of the 38,425 that originally registered for the party.

The PDC follows with 18,177 less Panamanians than the 39,635 members it had originally managed to register. Next in line is COLINA with 33,544 less than the original 79,824 registered members.

MOLIRENA registers a smaller percentage or number of resignations. It has lost 17,522 out of the 53,575 registered members. The other parties are the PALA [Labor Party] and the Doctrinaire Panamenist Party [PPD].

According to PRD President Gerardo Gonzalez, these figures are false because there could never be that many resignations from a party that has proven "over and over again to be the country's largest party."

Gonzalez does not believe that a large number of PRD members resigned after the invasion. However, according to the Electoral Tribunal, the rank and file of all COLINA parties—including the PRD—dropped considerably.

When asked about these figures, PDC Secretary General Camilo Brenes de-emphasized their importance, noting that they do not correspond to the party's internal list.

Brenes emphasized the fact that the PDC has conducted internal elections and results show that more than 70,000 new members have joined the party in recent years. This is why he does not consider the [Electoral Tribunal] figures "reliable."

Meanwhile, MOLIRENA President Alfredo Ramirez stated: "I do not believe the political parties' registration lists are experiencing such a big reduction."

However, Ramirez did not categorically deny this possibility when he stated that most Panamanian political parties do not worry about increasing their registration lists, which means that membership could be less at any given moment.

Ramirez added that when new political parties are registered, they usually get members from existing parties.

According to Ramirez, when a political party has been around for a long time, it is bound to suffer the defection of members who are looking for new horizons or political groups.

Ramirez agreed with PDC leader Brenes when he said that MOLIRENA has started a campaign of internal elections that shows thousands are becoming new party followers.

Regarding this phenomenon, we also consulted with PLA President Arnulfo Escalona. Contrary to the other points of view, Escalona admitted that this situation may still exist, if one takes into account that, to date, there have been few solutions to the problems that the Panamanian people face.

For Escalona, ideological and political militancy in Panama is scarce. It is not a major issue with Panamanians. There are those who resign and register again in other parties because this is linked to the solutions that a party may have regarding political appointments or national budget issues.

Escalona is aware that many people are frustrated with the lack of solutions, solutions "that have not come about, because we received a country with an economic crisis."

Escalona stressed: "The reason to join a political party is not based on its ideology, but on influence peddling. People register with the hope that they will be appointed to government positions."

Escalona's statements seem to back the theory of the Panamanian Human Rights Committee [CPDH]. During meetings that the commission reviewing the Electoral Code has been holding at the Electoral Tribunal every Monday and Thursday of this past month,

the CPDH proposed that elections be held with the people having the right to free postulation.

This would mean that any Panamanian citizen who wants to hold a government position can run for office without having to belong to a specific political group, because, as CPDH President Roberto Troncoso puts it, "that is what liberty in democracy means."

This CPDH proposal has not, however, been backed by the political parties, because "maybe they find that it goes against their respective organizations, interests, or definitions of what democracy is," Troncoso stated.

Another CPDH proposal is the abolition of the Electoral Code, since, according to Troncoso, it was one of the causes of the U.S. invasion, an invasion that occurred as a result of a decision by members of the Electoral Tribunal, who annulled the 1989 elections in which the people had expressed their will.

Aside from the political parties and the CPDH, the Catholic Church, the universities, the National Civic Crusade, and the National Bar Association participate in the meetings of the commission reviewing the Electoral Code. They have all supported Troncoso's proposal.

Poll on Government Handling of Justice

PA1812162491 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Dec 91 p 1A

[Report by Nubia Aparicio]

[Text] According to a Dichter & Neira poll, in which 700 men and women participated, a large percentage of those questioned believe that President Guillermo Endara's government has not even begun to meet the Panamanian community's needs for justice.

The nationwide poll, conducted by telephone, indicates that 69 percent of the people believe that the government does not meet the people's needs for justice. This opinion is held by 70 percent of the men and 68 percent of the women polled. The general discontent with the judicial system is greater among residents in the capital (77 percent) than among residents outside the metropolitan area (60 percent).

Those polled stated that the judicial system is better under the democratic government than under the previous military regime (43 percent); however, a significant number of participants (33 percent) said there is no difference at all. Moreover, one out of every four persons polled said that the current judicial system is even worse than under the previous government.

Attorney General Rogelio Cruz, when questioned about the poll, stated: "Very few people understand justice." In Cruz' opinion, "a large majority of Panamanians are totally ignorant on the subject of justice." He added: "It is as if you were to ask me about outer space. I would have to say I know nothing about the subject."

Regarding the large percentage of people who believe that the government has not fulfilled the people's expectations regarding justice, Cruz said: "Justice in Panama has always been slow for many reasons, including the large number of cases that are filed at the Judicial Branch and the Attorney General's Office. There are also few available resources."

Recently, Carlos Lucas Lopez, Supreme Court of Justice president, said that "the difference between the judicial system today and yesterday is that today the system is more independent and impartial. However, it still drags the heavy burden of 20 years of political manipulation and indifference, which appears to be consistent with Panamanian idiosyncrasies." Lucas Lopez attributed the judicial system's inefficiency to "a mass production style of justice [masificacion de la jusiticia] that is characteristic of all transition governments."

Meanwhile, 58 percent of those polled said they had lost interest in the cases of the former military regime's collaborators; 40 percent stated the contrary. Nevertheless, the granting of amnesty to these collaborators is not popular. Sixty-nine percent of those polled were opposed to granting amnesty to former collaborators of the ousted regime. This same sentiment is expressed in the capital as well as in the rest of the nation.

The attorney general explained that amnesty cannot be granted to persons who have already been tried, although this does not mean that the 40 close collaborators of the military regime who are currently detained will receive pardons and will be set free. "Those accused of embezzlement, homicide, or human rights violations cannot be pardoned," Cruz stressed.

Several days ago opposition Democratic Revolutionary Party legislator Alberto Aleman Boyd presented to the assembly a draft bill "whereby amnesty is granted to the persons accused of political crimes." He stated: "If an amnesty law is approved here, at the most, Rigoberto Paredes, Benjamin Colamardo, and Alberto De Santis...only three or four of those detained, who are linked to the previous regime, could be released," he noted.

Although the attorney general said he believes in political amnesty, he also stressed that the former collaborators of the military regime confined at El Renacer prison have cases for common crimes still pending and, therefore, would not benefit from an amnesty." Several days ago, Monsignor Marcos McGrath, archbishop of Panama, installed the Inter-Diocesan Commission on Justice and Peace, which is attempting to encourage the Catholic community to foster development for the poor and for social justice. Msgr. McGrath noted that "no Panamanian can truly say that, with the new government in power and with the end of the 21 years of military power, all of his wishes have come true." He said: "The issue of individual justice is what is being questioned the most.... There are prisoners who wait for years before they are called to justice."

Regarding the Spadafora case, 77 percent of those polled said that the processing of this case has taken longer than expected, while only 6 percent believe that the investigation has been carried out within an acceptable timeframe. Six percent said that it is progressing faster than they expected. The attorney general noted that when the new authorities were given the case, they had to start from scratch. He added that the case "is progressing." Cruz said that the Spadafora trial will be held in 10 months "because the lawyers of the alleged accused have presented all of the appeals possible to continue to delay case.... This is something the people do not know," he noted.

Assembly Approves Social Security Fund Reform

PA1812150091 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 14 Dec 91 p 1A

[Article by Carlos Vargas]

[Text] On 13 December, the Legislative Assembly plenum approved the reforms to the Social Security Fund [CSS] with a vote of 41 in favor, 10 against, and four abstentions.

After a nominal vote, eight legislators from the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party], one from the Liberal Party, and Ramon Aizpurua, from the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], voted against the reforms. Alexis Ayala, Batista Ztener, Rafael Hill, and Dr. Keith Holder, all members of the PDC, abstained from voting.

With the approval in the third debate of the reforms to the CSS, the confirmation of President Endara is expected so the reforms will become a law of the Republic.

According to the main reforms to the Social Security system, early retirement will be suspended beginning 1993. Beginning 1995, the retirement age will be 62 for men and 57 for women.

Provisions establishing payments equal to 180 months (15 years of work) to be entitled to retirement pensions remains unchanged. In addition, pensions will be estimated based on 60 percent of the monthly salary.

The reforms establish that the maximum pension to be paid by the CSS will be 1,500 Balboas and the minimum will be 145 Balboas.

The reforms also introduced other significant changes to the institution's administrative autonomy and the labor status of all health workers employed by the CSS.

According to one of the administrative reform articles: "The CSS will be a public right entity, autonomous in its administrative, economic, and financial affairs, with resources separate and independent from the central government."

The reforms stipulate that dental surgeons and doctors working for the institution will be entitled to an automatic 6 percent salary increase every two years. This increase will be based on their current salary. Attainment of first category status will be a requirement to receive this increase. This point ratifies agreements made during the 1979 medical association strike.

The CSS health workers classification list remains unchanged, and the four categories currently in use were confirmed.

CSS board members and other high-ranking officials attended the assembly session on 13 December and listened to the third debate session, which lasted eight hours. Each legislator had the opportunity to express their opinions on the reforms.

PRD legislator Balbina Herrera Arauz described the reforms as "disgraceful" because they are unfavorable to Panama's lower and working class. Responding to these charges, PDC legislator Gloria Moreno de Lopez stated that "it was more disgraceful to embezzle CSS funds. Manuel Noriega was even more reprehensible because he gave money to his friends, blows to the undecided, lead to his enemies, and financial gifts to his lady friends."

Legislator Moreno de Lopez continued by adding: "You remained silent when the CSS was being depleted, but today purport to defend an institution you and your party ruined. You have got some nerve."

According to the legislators, by implementing the reforms, the economic reserves of the CSS will be guaranteed until 2020.

The reforms will also financially reinforce the Old Age, Disability and Death Program with the approval of a 71 million Balboa increase in funds. According to the reforms, the second allowance to be paid by public and private sector workers will be included as part of the funds of the program.

The CSS reforms were presented to the National Assembly on 1 September. During the ceremony installing Assembly President Marco Ameglio, President Guillermo Endara stressed the urgent need to approve the reforms due to the difficult financial position of the institution.

The CSS reforms are the first of the Economic Program Laws proposed by the Endara administration and approved by the National Assembly, which Panama needs to negotiate with the IFIS [International Financial Institutions].

Approximately 398,000 workers belong to the Social Security system and nearly 1 million Panamanians benefit from the services this system offers.

During the signing ceremony, one worker shouted from the assembly visitor's gallery "we will get even in 1994, traitors."

Resolution on Regional Human Rights Situation

PA1812162391 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Dec 91 p 20a

[Text] Panamanian organizations for human rights—Justice and Peace Commission, People's Legal Assistance Center, Panama National Human Rights Commission [Conadehupa], and People's Coordinating Board for Human Rights in Panama [Copodehupa]—urged the Panamanian Government to file a lawsuit against the United States before the Inter-American Human Rights Commission for the 20 December 1989 invasion. They also urge the government to demand payment for the victims of the armed intervention and their relatives.

This request was stated in the following resolution:

The undersigned human rights organizations of Panama have considered the following facts:

1. It is the duty of all states, through their governments, to guarantee the respect of human rights on a legal, social, and economic level. It is also their duty to provide the material enjoyment of individual, social, economic, and cultural rights, and the rights to self-determination, sovereignty, and peace.

2. That the establishment of constitutional governments on the path to democracy require the respect of human rights. Therefore, the existence of international organizations, such as the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and the Inter-American Human Rights Court, is necessary as regional mechanisms for the protection of human rights.

3. On the other hand, the appointment of a former foreign minister of the Somozist dictatorship as a member of the Inter-American Human Rights Court is a regrettable precedent because the dictatorship was condemned by the OAS on 23 June 1979 for the inhuman conduct of Anastacio Somoza's regime in Nicaragua.

4. That the judges of the Inter-American Human Rights Court are appointed for their honesty, honor, and morals due to the moral force and character of their rulings.

5. That the Inter-American Human Rights Court ordered the Honduran Government to pay a settlement in the Velasquez Rodriguez case. The fulfillment of this resolution was on the OAS agenda for the last session, but regrettably, the topic was avoided.

6. That the budgets of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and Inter-American Human Rights Court have been inexplicably reduced. Although the two organizations have had little effect in the regional protection of human rights, the reduction of their budgets seriously weakens the regional human rights protection system.

7. That the Republic of Panama was invaded by the U.S. Army on 20 December 1989, causing the death of a mass of Panamanians. Two years after human rights organizations denounced the violation of human rights before the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, the Panamanian Government has not filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Government.

In light of all the aforementioned, we resolve to:

1. Ask at the plenary meeting of the OAS Assembly to, through its governments, abstain from negotiating, accepting, implementing, or imposing, judicial, social, and economic measures aimed at negotiating the enjoyment of individual, social, economic, and cultural human rights, as well as the rights to self-determination, sovereignty, and peace.

2. Ask the plenary meeting of the OAS to guarantee the continuous and regular operation of organizations for the protection of human rights, including the Inter-American Human Rights Commission and the Inter-American Human Rights Court and to give them the necessary resources to ensure their influence and presence in Latin America.

3. Ask the OAS Assembly to revoke the appointment of Mr. Alejandro Monteil Arguello due to his political past linking him to the Somozist dictatorship, which was condemned at the 84th meeting of the UN Assembly General on 15 December 1978 and at the OAS meeting of 23 June 1979. The resolutions issued at each of those meetings mention the repeated violations to basic human rights in Nicaragua.

4. Ask the OAS Assembly to demand that the Honduran Government fulfill the resolution of the Inter-American Human Rights Court issued on 27 August 1989 ordering them to pay a settlement to the relatives in the Velasquez Rodriguez case.

5. Ask the national government to present a lawsuit against the U.S. Government before the Inter-American Human Rights Commission for the violation of human rights during the 20 December 1989 invasion and that the victims of the invasion and their relatives be indemnified.

[Signed] Irene Perurena, Justice and Peace Commission; Hector Huertas G., People's Legal Assistance Center; Olga Mejia, Conadehupa; Conrado Sanjur, Copodehupa.

Argentina

* Unions May Lose Power in Privatized Entel

*92SM0139A Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish
20 Nov 91 p 26*

[Text] Employee stockholding, which began in the telephone companies, has confronted organized labor with the harsh fact that union representation is not the same as shareholder representation. The 10 percent to which telephone-company workers are entitled will not be managed by the unions but rather by the representatives whom shareholders elect at their meeting. Nor will the labor unions be involved in deciding the way in which the shares are to be distributed. Another kind of representative has to be sought now.

The unions that represent telephone-company workers are no longer part of the "backbone" of communications. By signing Decree 2423, President Carlos Menem has removed the leaders of the four sector unions as managers of the 10 percent shareholding to which company workers are entitled.

When the decision was made to privatize Entel [National Telecommunications Enterprise], the government reserved 30 percent of its shares for sale on the capital market. It also set aside 10 percent so that the white- and blue-collar workers in Entel could share in the ownership of the new companies. One year after privatization, the shares have not yet been transferred, and the shares remaining in government hands will be up for bids in early December.

When the bidding conditions that served as the framework for privatization were drawn up, it was established that the unions, the natural representatives of the workers, would manage the sector's block of shares.

This was the reward that the then minister of public works and services, Roberto Dromi, had thought of for white- and blue-collar workers, senior staffers, professionals, and top executives.

The four unions were the first to join the campaign of change that President Carlos Menem was just beginning. At a time when few understood what the change meant, the unions invited Maria Julia Alsogaray to an event at the Boxing Federation to back the privatization.

The four union leaderships thought that they had hit the jackpot with Dromi's conditions. They would manage 10 percent of the shares in two companies that together were going to do more than $2 billion in business.

Yesterday, the heads of each of the four unions were seeking to keep their hopes alive by clinging to one paragraph in the decree. The paragraph in question says: "The rights shall be exercised exclusively by the purchasers (the workers) or by the representatives whom they may appoint especially for this purpose."

Now, the white- and blue-collar workers of Telecom and Telefonica will have to hold a stockholders meeting (not a meeting of employees) and appoint the person or persons who will manage the 10 percent. They may or may not be union members; or they could be from outside the companies. Ultimately, a leadership parallel to the union leadership could be established to manage the workers' shares.

Moreover, though, and as if the above were not enough, the decree also bars the unions from the commission in charge of drafting the methodology under which the workers will divide up the shares. Representatives of the Economy and Labor ministries and of the companies will be the ones who decide what mathematical formula will be used for the distribution.

They may, however, have the "collaboration" of a body designated by the purchasers, which as in the previous case may or may not be the unions.

Some calmer labor leaders were saying yesterday that a new stage is beginning as of now in negotiations with company management, the government, and the rank and file whom the unions represent.

New Law Bans Import of Toxic Waste

*PY1812150291 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1227 GMT 18 Dec 91*

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 18 Dec (TELAM)—The Senate has approved the law that prohibits, under the penalty of up to 25 years in prison, the manipulation and import of dangerous toxic wastes. These are defined as those that could "cause direct or indirect danger to life, and those that could contaminate the soil, water, atmosphere, or the environment in general."

During a special session, the Senate also approved the Federal Fisheries Law and a motion submitted by Oraldo Britos of the Justicialist Party and Luis Brasesco of the Radical Civic Union, which implements collective labor bargaining for public service employees.

The bill on toxic wastes, which must now be promulgated by the executive branch, was approved after it had been evaluated twice by the Senate. The Chamber of Deputies had previously introduced changes into the original bill that had been approved by the Senate 2 months ago.

The law bans "the import, introduction, transport, disposal, storing, and any other act pertaining to dangerous waste from any foreign country into the national territory and the air and maritime space under Argentine jurisdiction."

It also establishes that he who violates this law "will be punished in accordance with the sentences established in Article 200 of the Penal Code," adding that "if the incident is accompanied by the death of a human being, the sentence will be between 10 and 20 years in reclusion or in prison." [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Chamber of Deputies Approves Privatization Law

PY1712173091 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Excerpts] The deputies did not sleep last night because they stayed overnight in Congress to approve the privatization law. An intense meeting and debate took place in the Chamber of Deputies where at 0540 this morning the official bloc approved the draft bill on the privatization of public companies that are operating at a loss. The approval came after a harsh debate between the official and opposition blocs, which lasted until 0420. The opposition deputies left the Congress hall at 0430 thus allowing the official bloc to approve the much-discussed law. [passage omitted]

The Senate will probably approve the law this week, and it should be promulgated before the end of the year.

Opposition, COB Reject Privatization Bill

PY1812134691 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Excerpt] The opposition parties have united to prevent the approval of the draft bill to privatize public companies in the Senate. Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada [president of the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement - MNR], Carlos Palenque Aviles [president of Conscience of the Fatherland], Antonio Aramibar [president of Free Bolivia Movement], and the United Left representative have asked the Supreme Court of Justice to annul the mentioned law.

Juan Carlos Duran Saucedo, MNR national executive secretary, said that the Planning Ministry is not entitled to place at risk the future of the public companies that have cost the Bolivian people so much.

[Begin Duran recording] We think that a special commission, whose members should be approved by two thirds of Congress, should administer the privatization process of these companies. This is not what the government wants; the government wants the Coneplan [National Economic and Planning Council] to do this.

We also said that the privatization process should be carried out openly through public bids and with the consultation of international companies, while the government states that it should [words indistinct]. To summarize, we want transparency in the process, which the government seems not to want. This is the reason for our confrontation. The problem is that there is no credibility in this government, it has been destroyed by the high incidence of corruption. [end recording]

Meanwhile, after learning of the approval by the lower house of the privatization law, Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] leaders met yesterday and decided to summon a national meeting of union leaders.

COB leader Freddy Ontiveros said that this national meeting may decide to call a 48-hour strike as an initial measure against the privatization bill. [passage omitted]

Boada Says IDB, World Bank Loans Approved

PY1812133491 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] The IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] and the World Bank have approved several projects for Bolivia. Raul Boada, president of the Bolivian Central Bank, referred to these loans and to another credit being negotiated with the IMF:

[Begin recording] The IDB and the World Bank have approved loans worth approximately $320 million,; this has already been reported. These loans involve two packages which were approved in the last fiscal year. We are now negotiating with the IMF the disbursement of the final $30 million of the adjustment program.

Next March or April we will begin negotiating with the IMF to get approximately another $60 million. The IDB and World Bank loans have already been approved. [end recording]

Brazil

Collor Defends Health Minister Against Charges

PY1612160691 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Dec 91 p 4

[Excerpts] Brasilia—A few hours after returning from his trip to Italy and Austria, President Fernando Collor reasserted his confidence in Health Minister Alceni Guerra and guaranteed that he never thought of dismissing him, since "he is performing with absolute dedication, devotion, and public spirit." Collor expressed support for his minister following a nearly one hour meeting with the health minister in Government House yesterday. After the meeting the president and the health minister both said they "were absolutely sure" that the Integrated Centers for Assistance to Children (CIACS) is a legal project. [passage omitted]

Collor says there is no doubt regarding the legality of the CIACS. "I think that matter has been appropriately clarified. There only remains that the evidence arrives at the TCU [National Accounting Office] so that the minister may make a decision about this case," the president said. Collor left the meeting convinced that his determinations are strictly being complied with by the minister and that the auditing will be concluded within the scheduled 15-day term which expires on 19 December. [passage omitted]

Health Minister Alceni Guerra yesterday reported that the canceling of the bid for the purchase of 23,500 bicycles for the health agents of the cholera prevention

campaign is inevitable. On 13 December, Justice Minister Jarbas Passarinho had phoned Guerra to tell him that there was evidence that the bicycle companies had formed a cartel to obtain higher prices. "If I could, I would not cancel the bid in order not to harm the campaign, but its cancellation is inevitable," the health minister said. During the meeting with Collor, Minister Guerra said he was instructed "to make the greatest effort to harm as few as possible in the cholera prevention campaign."

Timetable for Privatizations Established

PY1812153091 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Dec 91 Economic Section p 3

[Report by Marisa Castellani]

[Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro—The board of directors of the National Privatization Program yesterday established the timetable for privatizations during the first quarter of 1992, with two auctions each month.

The following companies will be privatized in January: The River Plate Basin National Service (14 January), and Indag [expansion unknown] Inc. (23 January). In February: Piratini Fine Steels (12 February), Goiasfertil [Goias Fertilizers, Inc.] (19 February). In March: Franave [Sao Francisco River Navigation Company] (12 March), and Petroflex [a subsidiary of Petrobras] (18 March).

For the period between April and June, with no set date, the following companies will be privatized: the Tubarao Steel Company, the Amazon Navigation Company (Enasa), the Southern Petrochemical Company (Copesul), the National Alkali Company, and the Itabira Special Steel Company (Acesita). [passage omitted]

Debt of States, Municipalities Rolled Over

PY1912015691 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] States and municipalities will have 20 years to pay back their 30 trillion-cruzeiro debt to the federal government. The Chamber of Deputies today approved the rollover of the debt.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Alvaro Pereira from Brasilia] In order to save some time, committee speaker Deputy Francisco Dornelles read the ruling favorable to the rollover at the chamber's plenary meeting. Only five minutes were needed to examine the final amendments to the bill. The leaders of the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party], the PT [Workers Party] and the PDS [Social Democratic Party] blocs, who opposed the bill, wanted the chamber to first vote on an amended version of the bill they had drawn up. Their request, however, was rejected. The bill rolling over the debt of states and municipalities was approved immediately, the voting being a mere formality because it was clear that the government and the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] had the support of most deputies.

Now that the bill has been approved, the debt of states and municipalities to the federal government will be rescheduled for payment in 20 years. Installments will be due every three months and their amount may not surpass 15 percent of the states' net income. The bill had the support of almost all state governors, especially those from Minas Gerais, Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Rio Grande do Sul, the states with the largest debts.

[Deputy Cesar Maia] This is a very important decision because we are reorganizing the debt of all states and municipalities in a truly federal gesture. [end recording]

Chile

Reportage on Croatian Weapons Investigation

Congress Criticizes Army Action

PY1812023691 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 17 Dec 91

[Relay by Claudio Lefort from Congress]

[Text] The declaration issued by the corps of Army generals has overstepped the Army's authority and represents an intervention in politics, from which the Army is banned. This was stated this afternoon by Minister Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa when asked his opinion on the harsh declaration issued by the Army generals today in response to a statement by PPD [Party for Democracy] Deputy Jorge Schaulsohn.

Schaulsohn said that the Army commander in chief lacks objectivity in the investigations into the case of weapons consigned to Croatia. Schaulsohn was accused of insulting the Army and ignoring the nature of the Armed Forces, and was rejected by the Army as a member of the Chamber of Deputies commission studying this case.

This is what Correa said about the Army generals' reaction:

[Begin Correa recording] In our opinion, the declaration issued by the corps of Army generals referring to previous comments by Deputy Jorge Schaulsohn are, to say the least, inappropriate. The government cannot accept that Army generals voice their opinion on whether or not it is appropriate, opportune, or convenient that a deputy be a member of a commission of the body to which he belongs, a subject which solely concerns this body, which is an autonomous state branch. This declaration oversteps the Army's authority and represents an intervention in politics which is completely off limits to a hierarchic and professional organization such as the Chilean Army. [end recording]

Enrique Correa was approached by journalists at Congress where he participated in the debate of a draft bill on miscellaneous issues.

Jose Antonio Viera Gallo, president of the Chamber of Deputies, and representatives of all the blocs, including the National Renewal and UDI [Independent Democratic Union] blocs, have rejected the declaration issued by the corps of Army Generals in which they term inappropriate the comments made by PPD Deputy Jorge Schaulsohn who doubts General Augusto Pinochet's objectivity and impartiality in conducting the investigation into the case of weapons shipped to Croatia.

The Corps of Generals also voices its opposition to Schaulsohn being a member of a commission in charge of investigating this issue.

In this regard, the president of the Chamber of Deputies, Jose Antonio Viera Gallo, said that the Chamber of Deputies will autonomously exercise its authority.

[Begin Viera recording] It is neither the Corps of Army Generals' business nor the business of any other organization belonging to the Armed Forces to voice an opinion on national political issues. Especially, as in this case, when it is sought to condition the normal functioning of a state branch by discrediting one of its members.

In the second place, it should be recalled that according to the constitution and the respective organization law and its regulations, the Armed Forces are prohibited from deliberating, that is, of adopting agreements which go beyond the very institution. Moreover, the Armed Forces are essentially obedient to the state powers and in addition, to the decisions the national Congress may adopt autonomously. [end recording]

The head of the RN [National Renewal] and UDI [Independent Democratic Union] bloc, Andres Chadwick and Alberto Espina, respectively, also voiced their support for Schaulsohn. [passage omitted]

Army Rejects Deputy's Statement

PY1812124491 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] The Chilean Army has rejected the statement by Deputy Jorge Schaulsohn who said that General Augusto Pinochet and other officers are involved in the arms shipment to Croatia that was recently discovered in Hungary.

In a three-point declaration, the Army said that Schaulsohn's statement is unacceptable because he said that the Army commander in chief lacks objectivity in the investigation into this case. The Army declaration also says that the statement is a serious offense to the Army, and puts in doubt the values and principles which are the solid basis of the Chilean military structure.

The declaration also says that Deputy Schaulsohn shows a complete lack of knowledge of the nature of the Chilean Armed Forces and states that it harms the people's image of the Army; a fact that cannot be accepted under any circumstance. The corps of Army generals said that Schaulsohn has shown a negative attitude toward the Army through his subjective comments which have led to antagonistic reactions that harm the normal civilian-military relations.

The declaration concludes by saying that the Army believes that it would be inappropriate if Schaulsohn became a member of an eventual committee of the Chamber of Deputies linked to military matters because he lacks the necessary impartiality to act with equity and justice.

Defense Minister on Criticism

PY1912014491 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Defense Minister Patricio Rojas has pointed out that the Army has violated [sobrepasarse] the Constitution by publicly criticizing the control powers of the legislative branch.

[Begin recording] I believe it is a negative and lamentable fact to ignore that the Constitution establishes that the opinions of deputies and senators are inviolable and the Chamber of Deputies' control powers represent a basic power of that branch of Congress.

In addition to its negative and lamentable character, I just believe that the Army should not intervene, and much less disregard [descalificar], in congressional powers. [end recording]

General Pinochet Reacts 'Angrily'

PY1912020491 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] General Augusto Pinochet, the Army commander in chief, has angrily reacted to remarks by the defense minister. In addition, Pinochet did not admit fault in the corps of generals' position on the legislative branch.

[Begin recording] [Pinochet] We made a public declaration about a congressman who made remarks outside the congressional floor. Therefore, he has nothing to do with this.

As soon as ... [changes thought] Every time we are attacked this way, unwisely ... [changes thought] Things can be criticized honestly, in a balanced manner, but when things are criticized arrogantly, coarsely, and using language inappropriate for a congressman, we also will be entitled to respond the same way. And every time that we are attacked, we will respond immediately.

[Reporter] General, the minister said ...

[Pinochet, interrupting] This is it. I will not talk any more.

[Reporter] The defense minister said the corps of generals had violated [sobrepasado] the Constitution.

[Pinochet] He should read the Constitution first. Did the minister say that?

[Reporter] The defense minister said that it had been ...

[Pinochet, interrupting] Well then, we violated [sobrepasamos] it and this is it!

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] that you asked the corps of generals to resign.

[Pinochet] Don't say! When did that happen?

[Reporter] A few minutes ago, during a news conference.

[Pinochet] How about that? And why don't we also ask them [not further identified] the same thing? [end recording]

General Augusto Pinochet made these remarks after participating in a ceremony to decorate the Army officers who were recently promoted. During the ceremony, President Patricio Aylwin decorated eight new generals with the President of the Republic decoration in the grade of grand officer.

Remarks Called Extremely Serious

PY1912024691 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Patricio Rojas said the remarks by General Pinochet—on whether a statement released yesterday by the Army High Command on PPD [Party for Democracy] Deputy Jorge Schaulsohn violated the Constitution—are extremely serious. Rojas said he could not make a final statement yet because he did not have a full transcript of the Army commander in chief's remarks.

[Begin recording] If he actually said that, I believe his remarks are extraordinarily serious, and they will be analyzed at the proper time. I believe that the important thing now is the result of... [changes thought] that has been reported... aah [hesitates] I don't mean to report on the debate during this session, but to inform the public that the government, in connection with the illegal exportation of arms to Hungary, has adopted several other resolutions, in addition to the investigation the Army is conducting.

The first such measure is that today I filed a lawsuit with the 26th Santiago Criminal Court, in which the defense minister takes action against those involved in the alleged forgery of public documents, which is a crime. [end recording] [passage omitted]

A decree was signed today creating a committee that will scrutinize all future arms sales abroad.

[Begin recording] A committee has been created to advise the defense minister. The committee will review all arms exportation requests, will check the documents presented by applicants, and will check compliance with all international commitments on embargoes and with our foreign policy objectives. Summing up, the committee will perform an in-depth analysis before the defense minister makes a final decision. [end recording]

The committee will be made up of the under secretaries of War, Navy, Air Force and Foreign Affairs, and the deputy chief of the defense staff. The national mobilization director will be the executive secretary of the committee. [passage omitted]

Foreign Debt Reaches Lowest Level in 10 Years

PY1812142491 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 11 Dec 91 p B1

[Text] The Chilean foreign debt dropped last October to its lowest level of the last 10 years. The obligations of our country abroad totals $16.17 billion.

The Chilean foreign debt has not been as low since 1981 as it was last October. In December 1981 the Chilean foreign debt was $15.542 billion. This figure increased systematically until it dropped last October.

Colombia

Unidentified Men Kill 20 Indians in Cauca

PA1812185491 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Report by Ana Fernanda Valderrama from Cauca]

[Text] A recent despicable massacre has disturbed the Colombian people. Four children, four women, and 12 men belonging to the Wataba Indian community were shot to death on 16 December. The victims had settled on a parcel of land belonging to the El Nilo Ranch, near Caloto in Cauca Department. This is how we are ending 1991—with 78 attacks resulting in 491 deaths.

The 20 families belonging to the Wataba Indian community live in this area of El Nilo Ranch 20 minutes from Caloto. Approximately 50 men with rifles and wearing Armed Forces uniforms attacked the families at 2030 on 16 December when they were about to eat. The Indians were ordered to lie on the ground, some had their hands and feet tied, and were then executed. Others were shot trying to escape, while a few managed to flee through the mountains from where their attackers had come.

[Begin unidentified survivor recording] They arrived shooting at our people, they were all over the place. They said we had stolen their land, and that we were sons of bitches. [end recording]

The criminals poured gasoline on the Indian's modest homes and set them on fire. The fire was extinguished quickly when the survivors notified the authorities. The police, Army, and criminal investigation unit finally arrived at about 1200 on 17 December to remove the bodies of the victims. These people are victims of the generalized violence in Cauca Department. They will be buried on 18 December if the survivors manage to obtain the resources necessary for the burials.

The killers were carrying sophisticated weapons that our Armed Forces were unable to identify, the Caloto government secretary reported. The survivors of the massacre said they have been receiving death threats ever since 5 December, and had notified the municipal authorities of these threats.

The origin of the fifth slaughter of 1991 in Cauca Department began approximately four years ago when 20 families of the Wataba Indian community moved from the mountains due to poor soil and decided to begin what they described as the recovery of the land stolen by the Spaniards. This is how they settled on the Nilo Ranch, at that time property of Betty Mora, who did not object to the Indians living there and tilling the land.

The Indians say their problems began on 7 December [date as heard] when Betty Mora sold the ranch to people from Medellin. This newscast has learned that the new owners are Avelino Ruiz and Orlando Villa, who began a campaign to evict the Indians from their land.

The Indians refused to abandon their crops and to make any deals with lawyer Gilberto Marquez, whom the owners entrusted with speaking to the Indians. The Indians accuse the new owners of ordering this massacre because they had been receiving constant threats by Ruiz and Villa.

Very little is known about Ruiz and Villa, who were not present on 17 December. There is only a foreman at the ranch, and he says he knows nothing about Ruiz and Villa.

Attorney General Expresses Concern

PA1812200791 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] As if at a ping pong table, several government institutions are passing the ball back and forth to blame each other for the land conflict affecting the Paez Indians in Cauca Department. The truth is that no one acted on time and today, the Paez Indians are crying over the massacre of 20 Indians. Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta expressed concern over the situation:

[Begin Arrieta recording] It is especially worrisome that Incora [Colombian Agrarian Reform Institute] has been held responsible; however, Incora says it is not to blame because it does not have sufficient funds. It has also been charged that there had been warnings about the massacre and that there was negligence on the part of the authorities. Other people say that the incident could not have been prevented because the land was invaded by the Indians. Therefore, I think there are a number of especially worrisome circumstances and events prior to the incident which requires that the Attorney General's Office become involved. [end recording]

Some Indian leaders have complained about the Attorney General's Office which, according to them, had prior knowledge of the threats against the Indians. Cauca Department Attorney General Jorge Medina has denied that his office had received such complaints.

[Begin Medina recording] At this time I have nothing that indicates that we had information prior to this massacre. If we were to find that someone at our office had prior specific information on what took place, this would be extremely serious. [end recording]

In his meeting with 25 departmental attorney generals, the Colombian attorney general established the new guidelines that will be used to conduct investigations.

[Begin Arrieta recording] There will be basically two guidelines: First, the establishment of priorities because there are problems that because of their magnitude demand speedier solutions; and second, the drafting of administrative procedures to enable us to rapidly and efficiently resolve the cases. [end recording]

The attorney general said that one of the priorities will be to investigate the massacre of the Paez Indians in Cauca. Five hundred years after the discovery of America, the Indians continue to be massacred.

Indians To Protest Massacre

PA1812185691 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] The Indian community from Cauca Department will meet today in Caloto to peacefully protest the killing of 20 peasants on a farm claimed by Paez Indians. Indian senators and 64 representatives from town councils in Cauca Department will meet at 1100 on 18 December in Caloto, where the presence of government representatives is expected.

They will demand that security measures be adopted to protect Indian families who survived the murder, as well as the rest of the Caucan Indian community. In addition, they will ask that the land problems in some areas of Cauca, where Indians are being asked to give up their property, be resolved.

The survivors of the massacre perpetrated in El Nilo Farm remained housed in a school in Caloto, where children are being supplied and fed.

A mobilization organized by Cauca Indians will take place in this part of the country to reject the massacre of 20 Wataba Indians from Paez community, who were murdered on 16 December due to land ownership problems in Caloto, in northern Cauca Department. A spokesman for the Regional Indian Council of Cauca Department told Emisoras Caracol Network that the demonstrators will march to the capital to demand respect for their rights and a resolution of their constant land demands.

Meanwhile, the departmental government has ordered security measures to prevent disruptions of public order.

The Catholic Church, the government, and the Congress have deplored and condemned the new genocide perpetrated in Caloto Municipality. In addition, they promised to conduct an in-depth investigation so that this massacre does not go unpunished.

Government Minister Humberto de la Calle and Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda, have voiced their indignation at the multiple crime. They have stated that the authorities will do everything they can to solve this murder, adding that the land ownership rights of Indians will be respected.

Meanwhile, Popayan Bishop Monsignor Alberto Giraldo Jaramillo said that there is no reason to justify this massacre and he demanded that those responsible be punished.

Meanwhile, Indian congressmen in the parliament also denounced the persecution of Indian families in Cauca Department and other regions of the country. They blamed the Incora [Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform] for not continuing the land negotiations to end the old problems registered there.

The Senate has formed a special commission that will travel to Caloto to assist in the investigation and search for solutions to the serious problems of the region.

Finance Minister Rejects Minimum Wage Proposal

PA1712214691 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—Finance Minister Rudolf Hommes has said that the government will not accept a proposal to increase the minimum wage by 30 percent, because that would raise inflation to at least 35 percent in 1992.

Hommes said that the government will not present a specific proposal on a wage increase at the installation of the National Labor Council on 16 December. He added that in principle, the government will discuss the economic and social prospects for next year.

Paraguay

Senate Passes Law Creating Antidrug Secretariat

PY1412181691 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 14 Dec 91 p 3

[Excerpt] The Senate yesterday sanctioned a law creating the National Antidrug Secretariat [Secretaria Nacional Antidroga—Senad]. The law now will be submitted to the executive branch for its promulgation. As stated in Article 1, this law will seek to coordinate the actions of governmental and nongovernmental bodies that work in antidrug trafficking and drug addiction programs.

This law has been studied by the Legislation Committee and the Health Committee. Both committees recommended its approval.

Waldino Ramon Lovera pointed out that through the establishment of Senad, the National Narcotics Directorate [Dinar] becomes a national secretariat, which will depend directly on the executive branch and no longer on the Interior Ministry.

This is explained in Article 2 of the law, which establishes that Senad "will depend directly on the presidency of the Republic and will be headed by an executive secretary and a deputy secretary, who will be appointed by the executive branch."

Article 3 of the law determines that the current Dinar will not be dismantled; it will answer to the new secretariat. To this extent, Article 58 of Law No. 1340/88, which created Dinar and established that it should answer to the Interior Ministry, will be modified. [passage omitted]

Bill Creating Integration Ministry Approved

PY1112144291 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 11 Dec 91 p 12

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies this morning gave the green light to a bill which creates the Integration Ministry and describes its functions. The bill, which had been approved earlier by the Senate, will now be sent to the executive branch for its promulgation.

The Integration Ministry will be charged with coordinating the government's efforts in the integration process known as the Common Market of the South (Mercosur). In justifying the proposal during a plenary session, Deputy Miguel Angel Ramirez contended that the implementation of the Mercosur is essential for its member countries to achieve economic development.

The Integration Ministry will promote Paraguay's participation in regional and continental integration policies and processes and will maintain contacts with Paraguayan departmental and municipal officials, encouraging them to participate in the integration process.

Integration Minister Appointed, Installed

PY1212175291 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 12 Dec 91 p 11

[Text] President Andres Rodriguez yesterday offered the post of minister of integration to Engineer Juan Carlos Wasmosy, who stated that once installed he plans to give up his business activities. The new minister will take the oath of office this morning after the chief executive signs the appropriate decree. The ceremony is scheduled to take place at the presidential palace at 1000 local time. [Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish at 1340 GMT on 12 December carried a 2-minute live relay from the presidential palace on the installation of Juan Carlos Wasmosy as the integration minister]

"I have to give it all up," Wasmosy answered when asked whether he plans to continue his business activities following his appointment. He said: "This is a new

position which will require a lot of work, a great deal of dedication, and considerable support from all the people. To accomplish this I must give up private activities."

During his meeting with the chief executive, Wasmosy was offered the recently-created ministry. The National executive branch promulgated the law creating the ministry on 11 December.

Asked about his priority plans, Wasmosy answered: "All I have done so far has been collect information. I will probably prepare a plan of action and submit it to the president of the nation after I take the oath of office."

He explained his plan, saying: "It will define and implement the freedom of movement for people, services, and goods and capital within a democratic framework that makes this system possible."

Wasmosy said that he had asked President Rodriguez to allocate for the new ministry part of the Central Bank building and another building at the corner of Mariscal Lopez Avenue and San Jose Street.

When asked how he plans to reconcile his new position with that of member of the constituent assembly for the Colorado Party and as a member of the Council of State, Wasmosy answered that he will resign from these two positions.

The new integration minister was born in Asuncion on 15 December 1938. He studied engineering at the National University in Asuncion and took post-graduate courses in business management, productivity in construction, cost analysis for building materials, use of concrete in highway construction, construction materials, and strategic planning.

He is currently the board chairman of the following companies: Paraguayan Mining and Construction Company Inc. (ECOMIPA) [Empresa Constructora Minera Paraguaya S.A.]; Consortium of Paraguayan Construction Companies (CONEMPA); CONEMPA-CEPAYA [expansion unknown] Consortium for the Construction of the Yacyreta Dam (COCEP); the Export Committee of the National Rural Association, the International Federation of Zebu Cattle. He also held the post of vice chairman of the ERIDAY-UTE [Impreglio-Dumez and Associated Companies-UTE] group which was awarded the contract to build the Yacyreta dam.

Wasmosy was a director of the Banco de Asuncion and of the Paraguayan Association of Nelore Cattle Breeders. He was also a member of the board of directors and founder of the Paraguayan Construction Chamber and of the National Housing Savings and Loan Bank representing the Paraguayan Construction Chamber.

Official Count for Assembly Elections Released

PY1312174091 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 13 Dec 91 p 6

[All numbers as published]

[Text] The Central Electoral Board (JEC) yesterday released the official results for the Constituent Assembly elections held on 1 December. The count reveals minor differences with the unofficial figures estimated by the parties and the JEC and already published by the press.

According to the data, the list of elected Constituent Assembly members remained unchanged. Thus, it was confirmed that the ANR [National Republican Association] will have an absolute majority of seats in the Constituent Assembly.

A total of 1,438,543 citizens were entitled to vote. Only 753,087 citizens exercised this right. This represents a 48 percent absenteeism. There were 14,234 blank votes and 15,056 invalid votes.

In the table below, we indicate the number of votes that each group received countrywide, the percentage that this represents in the total number of votes cast, and the total number of seats that each group will have in the Constituent Assembly.

The JEC reported that, as in the municipal elections, the vote count proceedings records were not properly completed.

OFFICIAL COUNT

Parties or Movement	Votes	Percentages	Total Seats
ANR	412,959	54.85	122
PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party]	202,113	26.84	55
PRF [Febrerista Revolutionary Party]	9,094	1.21	1
PDC [Christian Democratic Party]	6,548	0.87	1
PT [Workers Party]	4,840	0.65	0
PNSP [Paraguayan National Socialist Party]	157	0.02	0
PH [Humanist Party]	4,000	0.53	0
CPT [Constitution for All]	83,887	11.14	19

Deputies Eliminate Article on Privatization Bill

PY1312022091 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 12 Dec 91 p 7

[Text] In an impressive decision that may delay even further the national privatization process, the Chamber of Deputies by majority vote yesterday decided to eliminate Article 19 from the general privatization draft bill.

Article 19 establishes a list of seven companies that may be privatized. The overall draft bill was approved and now it passes to the Senate.

After a session characterized by a long, heated, and sometimes passionate debate, which lasted four hours, the Chamber of Deputies yesterday approved the overall general privatizations law. The law, therefore, now will pass to the Senate.

The bill drafted by a special commission that recommended it, did not suffer many changes. The most important change was the elimination of Article 19 which estabishes a list of seven companies which will be privatized by the executive branch. It was decided to eliminate this article by vote after a one-hour debate.

The seven companies to be privatized by the executive branch are as follows: LAP [Paraguayan Airlines]; the State Merchant Fleet [Flomeres]; Apal [Paraguayan Alcohol Administration]; Carlos Antonio Lopez Central Railroad [FCCAL]; Acepar [Paraguayan Steel Inc.] Cattle-Raising Development Fund [FDG]; and Fertipar [Paraguayan Fertilizer Co.].

Deputy Juan Carlos Galaverna and others argued that Article 19 should be part of the law because some companies must be privatized. Otherwise, he said "we will have to deal with the problem, that is, with the law, but without the implementation of an effective privatization program."

But Deputies Efrain Enriquez Gamon, Aniano Denis, and others expressed their opposition to the inclusion of this list of companies. They alluded that proper studies were not carried out on the real situation of these companies to justify their privatization. Like many others, Enriquez Gamon said: "Our country is not bankrupt."

After the Chamber of Deputies' decision was made known, Commerce Under Secretary Martin Burt, who closely followed yesterday's session which approved the overal draft bill, said: "We would have preferred it if those companies that may be privatized were named so that we may begin to do so as soon as possible. We have the duty to promote the nation's economic growth and we have shown that there can be no economic growth with these companies."

He added: "If these people believe that with this burden (the state companies) there will be more jobs, a better distribution of income, economic growth and promote production, they must prove it."

Burt admitted, however, that much progress has been achieved regarding economic reforms through the approval law by the Chamber of Depuites of the privatization law. But he said: "We cannot be calling for social justice, and for more jobs while delaying economic reforms. This law safeguards national interests and we hope it will be treated more expeditiously."

Burt said that the implementation of this law depends on the inflow of investments into our country. The same occurs with the lifting of the Central Bank required reserves. This cannot be done because there is a domestic and foreign debt totalling over $1 billion "which is blocked because of these state companies."

Regarding the elimination of the list of companies that may be privatized, Burt said: "It is quite strange than not even Apal was left in. We cannot handle the FCCAL, Flomeres is sinking, Acepar cannot cope with the investments that must be made to makes its prices competitive. Nevertheless, we are grateful to those deputies who supported the economic reform."

Article No. 1 of the draft bill was another article that was amended yesterday. It was drafted as follows: "The Executive Branch is empowered to transfer either totally or partially to the private sector, public companies that sell goods and services, which from now on will be known as 'state companies that may be privatized;' the shares or stocks of those companies owned by the state; or those in which it has some participation. The law will establish on a case by case basis which companies may be privatized."

"In the same manner and prior to the fulfilliment of the same requirements, the executive branch may allow the private exploitation of the service or management of state companies that may be privatized through temporary concessions. In this case, the concessionary will give the state a benefit, in the concept of an exploitation tax, in keeping with the income obtained from the exploitation of these companies.

Investment Guarant[illegible] Law Passed by Senate

PY1812215291 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 18 Dec 91 p 12

[Text] The Senate this morning approved the Investment Guarantee Law, which promotes foreign investment and establishes the same conditions for local and foreign investment in order to promote socioeconomic development. The law should be promulgated by the executive branch and published in order to take effect.

The law states: "Foreign investors, and the enterprises or corporations of which they are shareholders, will have the same guarantees, rights, and duties that the law sets forth for local investors, without any restrictions other than those set by law."

Guarantees

The law guarantees the right of ownership for local and foreign investments, without any restrictions other than those set by the Constitution and the law.

The law states: "A free exchange rate system will be enforced, without restrictions on either capital inflow or outflow, remittance abroad of dividends, interest, commissions, or royalties for transfer of technology or other

services. All exchange, remittance, or transfer operations will pay taxes as established by law."

The law also allows investors to freely contract local or foreign investment insurance services.

Duties

Foreign and local investment will be subject to the same taxation system.

Foreign and local investors will respect local labor and social security laws.

The state will not grant protectionist privileges to production, local market sales, exportation, importation, or intermediary financial operations.

Credits

The state will neither endorse nor guarantee contracts for domestic or foreign credits that are signed by private local or foreign individuals or corporations.

Shared Risk

Joint investments by local and/or foreign investors will be classified as shared-risk investments (joint venture) [preceding two words in English] or as other types of investment.

Peru

Antidrug Agreement Talks With U.S. To Resume

PA1812233491 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Peru and the United States will soon resume talks on the antidrug agreement. The George Bush administration already appointed its interlocutor, Bob Martinez, who will discuss antidrug strategies and alternate development measures specified in that agreement. President Alberto Fujimori himself would represent our country. Foreign Minister Augusto Blacker Miller made the announcement:

[Begin recording] [Blacker] I believe we must understand that every country in the world reserves the right to admit those they believe advisable for their interests and to reject those they do not want.

[Reporter] Would this not be bordering on mistreatment of people, as the passengers themselves claimed?

[Blacker] I did not understand your question.

[Reporter] Peruvians are reportedly being mistreated.

[Blacker] Regretfully, as I have said on many occasions, the issue of the visas, pardon me, of the entrance of Peruvians to other countries generates certain reactions, and we could say at times unpleasant and abusive reactions. I believe that all Peruvians must understand the following: All countries have the right to deny admission to a Peruvian, an Ecuadoran, or a Swiss if they believe it to be advisable.

It is important that we respect the laws of the country that we plan to visit. We cannot work in a country—and this must be very clearly understood—Peruvians may not work in a country just because it does not require us to have a visa. We have no right to seek employment in a country that issues no work permit to our nationals. All our embassies are adopting the necessary actions to hold talks with the authorities of various countries in order to learn about their immigration procedures. We are doing that now.

We cannot force Italy, for example, to admit Peruvians who admit during questioning prior to being granted admission to that country that they will seek employment there. This implies that their status would be illegal, because they hold no work permit from that country.

Regretfully, the innocent must often pay for the guilty. When a person who fits this situation is detected, the immigration official of the receiving country could decide that nobody will enter. They have the right to do this. We, as a country, should not complain about this. [end recording]

Petroperu, Occidental Petroleum Sign Agreement

PA1812234991 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Dec 91

[Text] A new investment phase has begun in the country with the signing of an important agreement for oil exploration between the State Petroleum Agency [Petroperu] and the Occidental Petroleum Company. The ceremony took place in the Golden Room at the Government Palace.

President Alberto Fujimori said that in the next two years the U.S. company will invest $60 million and will drill 20 oil wells—in other words, 10 per year.

Occidental Petroleum President David Martin said he is pleased with the signing of this agreement, which represents a new period in the company's investments in Peru. He added that he is optimistic about finding new oil resources that will generate great income for our country. Martin added during his speech that he is satisfied with the agreements reached with the government regarding the Petroperu debt with his company.

President Fujimori said that Occidental Petroleum will invest $60 million in the next two years based on a modification of the oil service agreement the company signed with Petroperu for lot 1AV in the northern jungle. Fujimori added that Occidental Petroleum will drill 20 oil wells—10 each year. If the explorations are successful, the company could extend the contract.

[Begin Fujimori recording] I take this opportunity to express our thanks for the hospitality we have received during our visit to various enterprises. Today we are

ending many years of stagnation, of conflict between Occidental and Petroperu, due to a misunderstanding and lack of dialogue, and really because the exploitation and contract were not rational. For us, overcoming this stagnation means another step, a political decision that makes it possible for us to add new factors creating a favorable climate for investors.

I am glad to see that Occidental, one of the main firms, has taken this important step in the oil field today. It is an example that others will undoubtedly follow, because Peru now offers the conditions and necessary guarantees for foreign and national investments. [end recording]

Senate Rejects Promotions for Fujimori Allies

PA1912023691 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Dec 91

[Text] The Senate rejected during its first vote the proposals to promote Interior Minister Juan Briones Davila and National Director of Intelligence Julio Salazar Monroy from brigadier generals to division generals. It is common knowledge that both enjoy the trust of President Fujimori.

The Senate approved by an absolute majority a motion to reject the mistreatment of Peruvian citizens in France and Spain. A summary of what both legislative chambers discussed follows:

The Senate on 10 December rejected requests for promotion to division general for Interior Minister Juan Briones Davila and National Director of Intelligence Julio Salazar Monroy. Brigadier Generals Alfonso Robledo del Aguila and Luis Salazar Monroy suffered the same fate.

Moreover, Luis Alcantara Vallejos, Rodolfo Robles Espinosa, Jorge Ferreiro Segui, and Roberto Saldana Vasquez were promoted to division general. (Luis Mayau Tegetti), Ronald Rueda Benavides, (Carlos Grigoleto Cortijo), Eduardo Bellido Mora were promoted from colonel to brigadier general, with Carlos Torres Rodriguez being the only one rejected.

The first thing on the morning of 10 December, this chamber approved a protest motion to reject the mistreatment of Peruvian citizens in France and Spain and to request a Foreign Ministry report on the incidents, taking into account the Vienna Agreements and the Dual Nationality Treaty with Spain. The 1992 Debt Law was approved and passed for ratification.

Meanwhile, the debate in the lower house centered around repealing Legislative Decree No. 699 and the plenum approval of the formation of a multiple commission, which must approve in 50 days a law for organized community participation in the administration and support of state-run schools. We must add that in the 9 December evening session this chamber approved the General Financing Law for 1992, which empowers the executive branch to make tax reforms before 31 March 1992 with the approval of the Special Bicameral Economy Commission.

Poll Shows Fujimori's Popularity Rising

PA1912020891 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 16 Dec 91

[Text] We want to present to you part of the results of the latest public opinion poll conducted for the Panorama newscast by Apoyo S.A. The poll was conducted in the metropolitan Lima area on 6 and 8 December among 519 persons over 18. The margin for error is 5 to 6 percent.

The government administration received an across the board approval of 51 percent, as opposed to a 66 percent disapproval for the role of parliament. President Fujimori's popularity rose 2 percent; it is now standing at 60 percent.

Economy and Finance Minister Carlos Bolona received the approval of almost half the persons polled.

On the other extreme, meanwhile, Ricardo Beltmont received 77 percent disapproval; while Senate President Felipe Osterling received 45 percent approval, 33 percent disapproval, and 22 percent of the persons expressed their indifference. Congressman Roberto Ramirez del Villar obtained barely 40 percent approval, while a much larger percentage expressed their indifference with regard to his work at congress.

A very large percentage of the public had no opinion whatosever with regard to the role of the attorney general in the government, although he did receive 36 percent disapproval, and 30 percent approval. Manolo Estela, director of the National Superintendency of Tax Administration, came in with a respectable 44 percent approval, while Luis Castaneda Lossio, director of the Peruvian Institute of Social Security, also received an acceptable percentage of approval.

The results of the poll on the presidential proposals made at the Annual Conference of Business Executives follow:

The proposal to renew one-third of the congress every two years obtained 80 percent approval; the reorganization of the judicial branch obtained 89 percent approval; the reorganization of the comptroller's office, 69 percent approval.

When questioned on the president's reasons for criticizing the parliament, 47 percent replied that President Fujimori's goal was to prompt the parliamentarianss to work more; 27 percent believe he wanted to modify the structure of the state to make it more efficient; 7 percent believe in the smokescreen theory; 6 percent believe that dissolving the parliament was the intention behind the criticism; and 4 percent believe it was to legislate through decrees.

The manner in which President Fujimori has confronted the parliament as well as the judicial branch obtained 72 percent approval in each case. In response to the question: Do you believe that President Fujimori's policy to act before speaking is favorable or unfavorable for the nation? Sixty percent of the persons polled replied that it is a favorable strategy for the nation.

As can be seen from these results, the president's popularity rating is rising and the other government branches continue to lose ground.

New Agriculture Minister on Agrarian Reform

PA1912042391 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] On 17 December President Alberto Fujimori swore in Gustavo Jesus Gonzalez Prieto as Peru's new minister of agriculture. He replaces Enrique Rossl Link, the criticized former minister.

The swearing in ceremony was held in the Golden Room at the Government Palace. Gonzalez Prieto, an agricultural economist and university instructor, worked for many years at the Agriculture Ministry and as the deputy ministry of economy. He was greeted by the full cabinet, relatives, and friends after the ceremony. As present at the ceremony was outgoing Minister Enrique Rossl Link, who referred to Gonzalez Prieto's professional career.

[Begin recording] [Rossl Link] I have known the minister for many years; he has worked with me. He has taught forest economy at the Agrarian University. As you well know, he served as deputy economy minister and he is an agricultural economist by profession. He is a well educated and capable individual, and I am fully convinced that he will do a very good job at the Agriculture Ministry.

[Unidentified reporter] Parliament says that the 1992 agricultural program is in danger. How can this threat be warded off?

[Gonzalez Prieto] To judge from my discussions with Minister Rossl Link, the threat is quite relative, quite small. He has closely followed the program in such areas as climate, flow of resources, and so on; so far, it is going well. Discussions with farming organizations generally show that there are no major problems. We are working very closely with the producers, and I intend to continue doing this. I believe that it is precisely the ties existing between producers, government, and the many political forces will improve the social well-being of the countryside.

[Reporter] What fundamental (?changes) will you make to prevent the agrarian reform from hindering the government's economic program?

[Gonzalez Prieto] I believe that the government's economic program is not currently under pressure from the agrarian reform. I believe that the connection between the economic program and the measures that have been adopted through the law that promotes investments are very clear.

[Reporter] Could you tell us what qualifications you have for the agriculture post?

[Gonzalez Prieto] I am an agronomist by profession. I have worked with various international agrarian organizations and at the Agriculture Ministry. I was deputy agriculture minister from August 1990 until two months ago. [end recording]

Uruguay

Vice President Asks Changes in Economic Team

PY1812005091 Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 12 Dec 91 p 1

[Text] Political sources have told BUSQUEDA that the vice president of the Republic, Gonzalo Aguirre Ramirez, has sent a letter to President Luis Alberto Lacalle, asking him to change the government's current economic team and setting a deadline of 31 January 1992 for the chief of state to promote changes.

The letter, which was sent by Aguirre in late November, asks for the dismissal of Economy Under Secretary Gustavo Licandro and Central Bank President Ramon Diaz. It also suggests the resignation of Economy Ministry Enrique Braga.

Aguirre warns Lacalle that he will wait for new developments until 31 January and that, if there are no new developments, the Renewal and Victory Movement (MRV), which he leads, will have to make a decision on its relationship with the executive branch.

Trade Unions-Government Confrontation Noted

PY1612163291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1636 GMT 15 Dec 91

[By Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Montevideo, 15 Dec (EFE)—An uncertain week of confrontation between the government and the trade unions is beginning in Uruguay, following an increase in labor conflicts after port work was declared an "essential service." Ports have been paralyzed for more than two weeks. This declaration authorizes the government to punish the workers who do not go to work.

The main trade union organization, the Interunion Workers Plenum-National Convention of Workers (PIT-CNT), has called—for the first time—for a 36-hour general strike for 17 December.

This is the most serious labor tension since 1 March 1985, when the country was democratized after 12 years of dictatorship, following a quick deterioration of the purchasing power of salaried workers, a tax burden

increase, and the failure of the anti-inflationary programs implemented by the government.

An escalation of violence is also feared in the face of the radicalization of the positions after Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle met with the "crisis committee" and commanders in chief of the Armed Forces.

In addition to the labor tension, there are also internal problems in the ruling National (Blanco) Party, which has been ruling for 20 months, after many legislators expressed their disagreement with the president's economic policy.

The resolutions to confront the conflictive trade unions have demonstrated, in turn, an "increased right leaning" by the government and, as a result, a resurgence of the proletarian unity, cracked during the past few months in the face of the failures of the socialist system in East Europe and infighting within the local left.

The Uruguayan port workers oppose the privatization of the services, included in a bill approved—by 23 of 30 legislators—by the senate.

According to the trade union [of port workers], trade union peace depends on the withdrawal of the bill from Congress, while the government, which chose not to yield to pressures, decreed port work to be "essential services."

Nevertheless, Labor Minister Alvaro Carbone, whose mediation efforts last week did not yield any results, has said that the government will maintain a dialogue and has rejected the possibility of calling workers engaged in other activities to work at the Montevideo port, the main seaport.

The trade union of port workers has been described as one of the most powerful trade unions in the country, along with the trade union of bank employees, currently in conflict with its employers who refuse to guarantee work stability, and the oil workers trade union, which on 10 December lifted a strike after the government decreed the "essential nature" of the fuel distribution service.

According to government sources, the port conflict, which began more than two weeks ago, has caused the country to lose about $3 million.

Lacalle Meets With Collor, Returns From Brazil

PY1912014691 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Relay by special correspondent Jorge Vignola at Carrasco International Airport—live]

[Excerpt] The president of the Republic, Dr. Luis Alberto Lacalle, arrived in Uruguay a few minutes ago after paying a two-day visit to Brasilia.

Among his last activities in the Brazilian capital, attended also by this special Radio Carve correspondent, Dr. Luis Alberto Lacalle held a bilateral meeting with Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello. [passage omitted]

Argentine-Brazilian Nuclear Accord Praised

PY1812211091 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 13 Dec 91 p 10

[Text] President Luis Alberto Lacalle and Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell today expressed their satisfaction with an agreement reached in Vienna by Brazil, Argentina, and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] on the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

In separate messages sent to President Fernando Collor de Mello (Brazil), President Carlos Saul Menem (Argentina), Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek, and Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella, the Uruguayan foreign minister expressed his approval of the accord.

After pointing out that the Uruguayan Government has been monitoring this development "closely and with a broad spirit of understanding," President Lacalle stressed that the agreement reached represents "an all-important breakthrough, at a continental level, in such a sensitive area that provides a new element of security and confidence in the efforts in favor of regional integration and development..."

For his part, Foreign Minister Gros congratulated the diplomacy of the two countries and stressed that the agreement "provides honesty in an area that involves the entire region, opening highly positive political and economic prospects."

Both Fernando Collor and Carlos Saul Menem arrived on 12 December in Vienna at IAEA headquarters to sign the historic accord.

Guyana

Opposition Calls For More Foreign Observers

FL1812141691 Bridgetown CANA in English 1205 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 18, cana—The opposition Working People's Alliance [WPA] wants more foreign observers to certify Guyana's poll next year. It said that Caribbean Rights, a human rights watchdog, Socialist International, Americas Watch, the United Kingdom parliamentary human rights group, the Organisation of American States, and the Canadian Council of Churches should receive an official invitation to monitor the poll.

"The government's attitude to electoral observers makes little sense," the WPA said in a statement. "It should use the opportunity of inviting organisations which had expressed displeasure in the past to come and witness that we are working to make a free and fair election. WPA will press for a change in the concept of observer

teams interested in monitoring the forthcoming general elections in Guyana," the statement said.

The Desmond Hoyte administration included the invitation of observers among sweeping electoral reforms brokered by the Atlanta-based Carter Center over the past 17 months. The center and the Commonwealth Secretariat, along with friendly diplomatic missions here, have been invited by the administration to certify the poll, postponed from this month because of a flawed voters list.

Sugar Industry Shows Significant Recovery

FL1812201691 Bridgetown CANA in English 1935 GMT 18 Dec 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 18, CANA—Guyana's sugar industry has made a significant recovery from last year's dismal performance, but 1991 output is unlikely to satisfy the export quota with the European Community, the STABROEK NEWS reported. The newspaper quoted industry sources as saying 1991 production, currently standing at 157,708 tonnes, was expected to surpass 160,000 tonnes by weekend when the current crop ends. Last year's production of 129,920 tonnes was the lowest on record and was attributed to bad weather and disruption of the harvest by a spate of strikes.

Guyana has an annual export quota of 166,000 tonnes with the EC which pays a preferential price of U.S. 600 dollars per tonne, U.S. 400 dollars more than the world market price. Faced with the possibility that Guyana may be unable again to meet its quota, EC officials have issued veiled warnings that future shortfalls may result in a reduction of the quota. However, officials of the state-owned Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco), being managed by the British firm Booker Tate, said 1992 production would satisfy the EC quota. Sugar is an important foreign exchange earner for Guyana.

CDB Loans $4.7 Million for Sea Defense Repairs

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[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 17, CANA—The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has approved a U.S. 4.7 million dollar loan for the rehabilitation of a 32.5 kilometer stretch of sea defence on the west coast of Berbice in Eastern Guyana, the state information agency has announced. The loan is the first since Guyana cleared its arrears to the bank and other international lending agencies last year. The total cost of the project has been put at U.S. 9.2 million dollars.

The Guyana Public Communications Agency (GPCA) said that the project, between the Abary and Berbice Rivers, is expected to be completed within four years. Also included in the sea defence project is the provision for the maintenance of sea defences protecting 31,00 hectares of land from flooding and high tides.

The GPCA said that the CDB has also approved a U.S. 108,000 dollar grant to assist the National Padi and Rice Grading Centre for improving its technology and upgrading its personnel skills.

An appraisal mission is to be mounted next month by the CDB to examine a power transmission project with the state-owned Guyana Electicity Corporation.